

THE TIMES
Tomorrow

Ballet shoes
The Lynn Seymour story. Part II Terence Rattigan and the movie moguls

Browned off
Penny Perick explains in Wednesday page how not to make a meal of cooking

Cinder tracks
Simon Barnes peers through the flying cinders to discover the magic of speedway racing

War and peace
Peter Kellner on the shrivelled laurels of Thatcher's war

Goal post
Should England play rugby in South Africa? The Miles Kingston postbag

Argentina's pledge on Falklands

President Alfonsín of Argentina has repeated his desire for normal relations with Britain and called for talks on the future of the Falklands, promising ample guarantees to the Islanders. Floating port, page 8

Moscow riddle

Mr Chernenko, the Soviet leader, visited the Kremlin clinic on Sunday but it is not known whether he had a check-up or was visiting. Chernenko in charge, page 5

Mondale ahead

Today's New York Democratic primary is a crucial test both for Mr Mondale and Senator Hart. An opinion poll put Mr Mondale 11 per cent ahead. Page 8

Reuters record

Reuters, the news agency which is planning to go public next month, made record profits of £55.25m for 1983. Page 21



Eviction delay

An attempt to evict women from the original peace camp at Greenham Common airbase in Berkshire has been postponed. Page 2

Singer murder

The father of Marvin Gaye, the soul singer, is expected to be charged with the murder of his son in their Los Angeles home. Page 9

Obituary, page 16

Manager to go

Keith Burkinshaw, manager of Tottenham Hotspur, will leave the club at the end of the season. Burkinshaw resigned yesterday after eight years in charge. Page 26

Leader page, 15

Letters: On Cern, from Professor P. T. Matthews, FRSc, and others; data protection, from Mr M. S. White; art sales, from Mr K. Hudson.

Leading articles:
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Features: pages 10, 12, 14
Anger in the milking shed: the Hart-Mondale foreign policy divide: China's rural crime wave: on your bike: a cautionary tale. Fashion: looking sharp in the showers. Spectrum: the Lynn Seymour story.
Computers, pages 17-20
Computer copyright: more micro winners; another debut. Obituary, page 16
Miss Elizabeth Goudge, Luigi Barzini, Marvin Gaye.

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Overhaul of social security system to simplify benefits

By Anthony Bevis and Nicholas Timmins

Plans for a fundamental overhaul of the £37,000m social security system were announced in the Commons by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday.

Announcing what he called the most substantial examination of the social security system since Beveridge, Mr Fowler told MPs that any savings would give the Government the choice of diverting money to other parts of the social security budget.

But he fuelled Opposition fears later when he told journalists: "If there are economies, if there are savings in any particular area, then Government basically would have the alternative of putting that money into another benefit area, or conceivably of deciding that it would like to reduce taxation."

The minister told the House that in addition to the two inquiries which had already been launched - into pensions and housing benefit - he was proposing two further inquiries to complete the overall examination of the system: one into supplementary benefit, and another into benefits paid for children and young people. He is also commissioning a comprehensive survey of disability.

The four policy surveys, examinations of the structure and administration of a system which accounts for almost 50 per cent of all public spending, with payments to more than 20 million beneficiaries administered by 80,000 staff, are to be completed by the end of this year.

Mr Fowler emphasized that the reviews would be undertaken with outside help, with public evidence, with no secret purpose, with no preconceived ideas and that there would be no closed door policy.

He said that his own review, on pensions, had completed taking public evidence on portable pensions and that legislation could possibly come before other actions on the remaining issues.

Mr Tony Newton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, will lead an examination of the supplementary benefit scheme, which now deals with no more than 10 million people.

Continued on back page, col 2

MAIN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS 1983
(figures are approximate)

	Beneficiaries in millions	Cost in £bn
Pensions	9.48	13.85
Supplementary benefit	7.1	5.6
Child benefit	12.5	3.9
Housing benefit	6.75	4.0
Family income supplement	0.38	0.12
One parent benefit	0.54	0.17

Terror attack injures 48 in Jerusalem

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

One of the busiest shopping streets in West Jerusalem was briefly transformed into a bloody battle-ground yesterday as Arab terrorists lobbed grenades and armed Jewish civilians - including a jeweller and a bus driver - exchanged volleys of shots. It was one of the worst and most indiscriminate attacks mounted in the Holy City for years.

A total of 48 people injured in the attack were taken to hospital, two of them in serious condition.

One of the three attackers - who are believed to have infiltrated across the Lebanon border - was killed and left lying in the road. The other two were detained by Israeli security men.

The attack was considered by officials here to have been linked with the campaign under way in America to have the US Embassy transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Responsibility was quickly claimed by the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine group, which issued an imaginative but totally unfounded communiqué from Damascus alleging that its fighters had stormed the Ministry of Tourism and taken hostages.

The ministry building is only a few hundred yards away from the spot where the fighting started shortly after 10 am. Adding to speculation that it may have been the original target.

As it was, the Arabs - one of whom gave a clenched fist Palestinian salute before hurling another grenade towards the

crowds of Jewish shoppers - began their attack after emerging from a sports-wear shop close to the city's busiest intersection.

Mr Ronnie Cohen, aged 18, who only began working in the shop two hours before the violence erupted, described how a sub-machine gun was held to his head. He looked shaken by his narrow escape but said he was prepared to start work again immediately in the city centre, which only a month ago was the target of another Palestinian grenade attack, which injured 21 people.

Continued on back page, col 4

Queen is invited to Israel

President Chaim Herzog of Israel yesterday invited the Queen to visit his country as "a most honoured and welcome guest" when the two met for lunch at Windsor Castle.

It was announced by the Israeli Embassy in London last night in the face of silence from Buckingham Palace, and in Whitehall. No immediate reply was given - or expected - and it could be years before the Queen takes up the offer.

The invitation comes only days after the Queen's return from her visit to Jordan, where she was reported to be angry that some of her remarks had been interpreted as anti-Israeli. President Herzog's gesture will upset pro-Arab MPs at Westminster and they are likely to press the Government to advise the Queen not to go.

In a statement afterwards, the Israeli Embassy said the President "was most impressed by the gracious and friendly reception accorded him by her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh". After lunch, the President and his wife were shown round the castle by Sir Oliver Miller, the Surgeon of the Queen's Pictures.

Woman's warning saved boy skiers

By David Cross

Six British schoolboys and their teacher escaped almost certain death in Sunday's avalanche in the Swiss Alps, largely thanks to the presence of an American ski instructor.

Miss Lesley Henning, aged 29, from Seattle, who was skiing with the group from Ardingly College, Sussex, screamed a warning.

Mr Peter Hopkins, managing director of Schools Abroad, which had organized holidays for nearly 100 schoolchildren from three British schools, said: "She told me she did not see or hear the avalanche, but she sensed it coming, turned round, saw it and screamed a warning."

"As a result they had a split second to see the avalanche coming and were able to move to avoid its direct impact."

Mr Hopkins described the accident which killed two British teachers and two New Zealanders on his return to Gatwick yesterday from the resort of Saas Grand near Zermatt and the Matterhorn.

He was accompanied by about 50 children from Edgehill School, Bideford, north Devon, and St Felix School, Southwold, Suffolk, several of whom were buried under snow. The 48 pupils from Ardingly are completing their holiday at another resort.

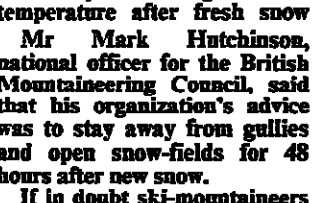
It appears the avalanche was caused by an overnight rise in temperature after fresh snow.

Mr Mark Hutchinson, national officer for the British Mountaineering Council, said that his organization's advice was to stay away from gullies and open snow-fields for 48 hours after new snow.

If in doubt ski-mountaineers should dig an exploratory pit to examine lower levels of snow and ice. New snow falling on compacted snow from earlier falls was particularly hazardous, he said.

In the case of ski-resorts, however, the responsibility for determining whether approved ski slopes are safe rests with local organizers. Normally they would dynamite dangerous build-ups of snow and ice, or close a slope.

That did not happen on Sunday, but Switzerland has a reputation of having some of the best organized resorts.



Miss Karen Money, aged 29, also died.



Mrs Lyn Bonnet, aged 26, from Devon, who was killed in the avalanche.

Soviet-block ships mass in Atlantic

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

During the past six days the Warsaw Pact has begun what may be the biggest ever deployment of ships in the North Atlantic area.

The build-up has been detected in three phases.

Last Wednesday Nato maritime patrol aircraft located five Krivak anti-submarine warfare frigates in the north of the Norwegian Sea. They normally operate farther east - in the Barents Sea.

Last Thursday four Krivak frigates, a Kynda class cruiser and three diesel-powered submarines were identified in the Norwegian Sea, having come out of the Baltic.

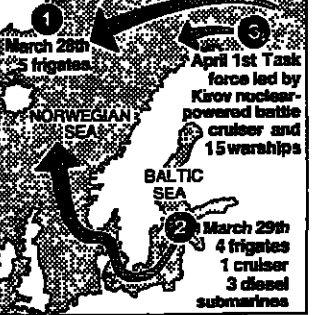
On Sunday the nuclear-powered Kirov battle-cruiser was seen rounding North Cape at the extreme north of Norway and heading west into the Norwegian Sea accompanied by 15 warships.

The activities of the Russian fleet are being monitored from the headquarters Admiral Sir William Staveley, Nato's Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic, at Northwood in Middlesex.

A spokesman said that because of the number of surface ships it was assumed that large numbers of submarines were also involved. There was also an increase in Warsaw Pact air patrols. Nato ships and maritime patrol aircraft were maintaining contact with the Warsaw Pact forces.

He said it was assumed that the Warsaw Pact was engaged on a big anti-submarine exercise to see how many ships they could get to sea and how quickly. The task group led by the Kirov was described as a "sizeable cross-section" of the Russian northern fleet, which is based at Murmansk just east of northern Norway.

It is not thought that any large aircraft carrier is involved in the exercise.



Retaliation pledge on levy curbs

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

A Labour Government would retaliate against Tory action on the unions' political levy by making companies set up separate political funds which would require shareholders' approval. Mr John Smith, the shadow spokesman on employment, told the Commons last night.

Speaking in a Report Stage debate on the Trade Union Bill, before the expected government backbench revolt on contracting in to the political levy, Mr Smith said that the Government was seeking to curb union rights to campaign against government policies which directly affected their members; on issues such as public spending, denationalization and privatization.

Parliament, page 4

Tories attack EEC milk pact

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Commons ordeal for Jopling

Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, was given a difficult time by Conservative backbenchers in the Commons yesterday over the new European Community agreement on reduced milk production, which farmers have said could force one in six of Britain's dairy farms out of business.

The Conservative benches were almost full as Mr Jopling reported on the outcome of the weekend's meeting in Brussels. After his statement it appeared that a large majority of them wanted to put questions to him.

Pro- and anti-marketisers alike voiced anger that the milk deal, which Mr Jopling said would save the Community £1,000m a year, would hit Britain far worse than other member countries, and that dairy farmers were suffering a disproportionate share of the burden caused by the reform of common agricultural policy expenditure.

There were signs that the agreement had if anything hardened the opposition of some Conservatives to increased production in the Community's funds, although control of agricultural expenditure has been a precondition set by the Government for any attempt to increase "own resources" above the present 1 per cent yield of VAT.

Tory MPs first elected last June were swiftly signing a Commons motion tabled by Mr Neil Hamilton, MP for Tatton, saying that a convincing case for increasing the EEC's funds had not been made.

In the Commons Mr Jopling accepted that the agreement inevitably created difficulties for farmers throughout the Community, but said it was fair and realistic. It was a vital first step in controlling burgeoning spending and production of foodstuffs.

That was not accepted by his backbenchers, one of whom described it as feeble. Another said it would lead to the impoverishment of the dairy farmer and another said it would lead to bankruptcies on a big scale.

● Farmers who want to avoid EEC penalties should feed their milk to calves instead of people, Mr Jopling said at a press conference in London yesterday (Hugh Clayton writes). He explained that the price deduction fixed under new EEC rules applied only to milk sold off farms.

Mr Jopling said that "Quite a lot of farmers will look at the option of feeding whole milk to the farm instead of sending it to the dairy." Another way for farmers to avoid penalties was to produce milk for use on the farm.

Continued on back page, col 5

Sub-machine guns for police 'horrendous'

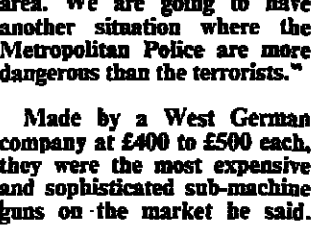
By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

An expert on the police use of firearms yesterday attacked the Home Office decision to allow Scotland Yard to buy sub-machine guns for body-guard duties during the economic summit conference in London this summer.

Mr Colin Greenwood, a former police superintendent and author of works on police firearms tactics, said: "I find it horrendous that a police force should have sub-machine guns in the centre of London. Are they expecting the Russian infantry to come en masse?"

Mr Greenwood was commenting after the Home Office confirmed yesterday that up to a dozen 9mm Heckler and Koch MP5K compact sub-machine guns are being bought at the request of the Yard. The Home Office said that the guns were needed before the conference, to be attended by President Ronald Reagan and six other leaders.

But Mr Greenwood said: "Terrorists won't come in dozens. The only reason for having sub-machine guns is



The sub-machine gun chosen by the Yard.

that you can spray a whole area. We are going to have another situation where the Metropolitan Police are more dangerous than the terrorists."

Made by a West German company at £400 to £500 each, they were the most expensive and sophisticated sub-machine guns on the market he said. Each bullet has a range of a mile and the gun can fire at a rate of 900 rounds a minute from 15 to 30 shot magazines. The Yard had experimented with a number of other sub-machine guns, Mr Greenwood said.

Another critic yesterday was Mr David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North. He said that Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, might have agreed to the guns after

UK ready to talk on hostages

By Our Defence Correspondent

The British Government would be willing to have direct contact with the Unita guerrillas who are holding 16 Britons hostage if it would help to secure their release in Angola.

This was indicated yesterday by the Foreign Office. It followed reports of the arrival of the hostages at the guerrillas' headquarters at Jamba in the south of Angola after a trek of more than 800 miles. The hostages were seized more than five weeks ago at Kafunfo in the northern Angola.

Until now the Foreign Office has used the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure information on the condition and whereabouts of the hostages.

It is trying through the Red Cross and other channels, possibly including the South Africans, to establish what conditions Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader is setting for the release of the hostages.

The Foreign Office said it had received conflicting indications of Dr Savimbi's demands. It said that in a situation such as that in Angola, the Government's policy was to condemn the taking of hostages, and not to accede to demands, but Britain would be prepared to talk to anybody to secure the release of the hostages.

The Foreign Office's primary concern was the humanitarian one of getting release of the hostages as soon as possible, and they were prepared to be reasonably pragmatic.

Britain has officially recognized the Marxist MPLA regime in Angola, which is backed by Cuban forces in the country. Because of this until now there has been no direct contact with Unita, even though its sympathies are pro-Western.



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T/C/A

Family life of jobless is under threat

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

Family life in Britain is being threatened on an unprecedented scale by unemployment, a report from 12 leading voluntary organizations said yesterday.

"Unacceptable damage" is being caused by high levels of unemployment, which are affecting not just the unemployed but their spouses, children and the elderly relatives for whom they care. These are the findings of the Unemployment Alliance, an umbrella group including Age Concern, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, MIND, the Child Poverty Action Group and the National Council for Voluntary Organizations, said. "This is a sad reflection on a society which claims to value its families."

The report argues that in addition to the three to four million people actually unemployed, there are 1.2 million children in families where the head is unemployed, 500,000 of them where unemployment has lasted over a year.

Official figures grossly underestimate unemployment among women and the "average" family of a working husband, housewife and two children now make up only 5 per cent of all households.

One in seven families is headed by a single parent, 90 per cent of whom are women, and more women care for frail or handicapped relatives than there are mothers with children under 16.

Over 50 per cent of two parent families have both parents working, and in many cases the wife's earnings are not "pin money" but necessary to keep the family out of poverty. The number of families who are in poverty is in the millions.

Sharp exchanges in Commons over miners' dispute

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Political differences over the miners' dispute sharpened yesterday when Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said that it was a great pity that no national ballot had been allowed.

There was confusion in the Commons after the speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, halted Mr Walker midway through his reply to a private notice question tabled by Mr Tony Benn. Mr Weatherill said that the minister was going beyond the terms covered by the question.

Earlier Mr Benn had been involved in a heated altercation during a live interview on Independent Television News in which he accused it of interviewing him under false pretences and covering the dispute disgracefully.

The Speaker's action in interrupting Mr Walker, which upset Conservative MPs, came as he answered a question from Mr Benn about the effect on energy supplies of the decision by the transport unions to back the miners.

Mr Walker had said that he hoped the unions would take into account that 14 of the 24 members of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive were women, and he added: "And what you are doing, and this is how ITN makes a living and why Alastair Burnet got his knighthood, you're trying to make trouble in the Labour Party, discourage the miners, who've got a very hard battle on."

Labour MPs then protested that Mr Walker was deliberately widening the issue, and it was several minutes before order was restored. Mr Walker then told the House that there were

six months' stocks of coal at the power stations.

The confrontation of ITN's *News at One* programme between Mr Benn and Mr Leonard Parkin, the interviewer, came after ITN had shown two pithead reports followed by another item in which Mr Neil Kinnock declined to say whether or not he supported a ballot.

Mr Benn, asked whether he backed a ballot, said ITN was trying to create trouble in the Labour Party and was losing public credibility because it was not covering what was really happening.

As Mr Parkin attempted to intervene, Mr Benn said: "You listen to me for a moment... because I think you have brought me here under false pretences."

ITN coverage had been a disgrace, he said. People were defending their jobs, trying to save their communities. "Why don't you cover the crisis in the mining industry upon which you and I will depend for energy when the oil runs out?"

As Mr Parkin persisted Mr Benn said that the national executive of Labour had backed the miners, and he added: "And what you are doing, and this is how ITN makes a living and why Alastair Burnet got his knighthood, you're trying to make trouble in the Labour Party, discourage the miners, who've got a very hard battle on."

ITN said last night that Mr Benn was entitled to his point of view, ITN's reputation for impartiality was a matter of public record.



A mobile miner, protected by police, crossing through pickets outside the Parkside colliery at Newton le Willows in Lancashire yesterday (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Strikers 'have voted with their feet'

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Mr Bill Paynter, an influential figure in the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday attacked the "fetish" of secret ballots on industrial action and argued that a rolling strike was "no less democratic than a ballot vote."

Mr Paynter, a former general secretary of the union whose views still command wide respect, said the Government, the National Coal Board and certain union leaders were plugging for a ballot vote in the belief that the outcome would be against a strike.

In a letter to the union journal, *The Miner*, he insisted: "It is not unknown for ballots to be operated to defeat action. It is over-simplistic to see a ballot

as a sort of pure instrument of democracy within the union and ignore the external forces at work to influence and possibly determine the outcome."

Mr Paynter, evidently springing to the defence of the left-wing leaders of the union, said: "The spontaneous start and spread of strike action triggered by an attack and responded to by solidarity action to involve the majority in the union is no less democratic than a ballot vote."

"In many ways voting with the feet can be the most effective form of democratic action. There is no merit in making a fetish of one democratic instrument to the exclusion of others."

Pit-duty policeman can earn £500

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Police Federation confirmed yesterday that a police constable on duty at a picket line could get £400 or £500 a week in overtime and basic payments.

The actual amount depends, of course, on how much time the officer spends on his feet, and his position on the pay scale.

The pay system for police back-up provides that any time in a support unit should be divided into eight hours at basic pay, eight hours at time and a third, and eight hours sleep.

If sleep is not disturbed and reasonable facilities are given for leisure, no pay is available for that eight-hour period. However, if no proper sleeping

accommodation is available, the third eight-hour period in the day also qualifies as time and a third.

There have been reports of officers having to sleep in coaches. A federation spokesman said that if men finish at, say, 4am and breakfast is at 6am "that makes a mess of the sleeping period. Some accommodation we have seen is reasonable. Some is not."

According to reports reaching the federation's headquarters, most men are doing 12 hours on and 12 hours off.

A top-rate constable with a minimum of 15 years' service earns £203.58p for each five-day week on an ordinary eight-hour day shift.

Seven remanded on missiles charges

By Craig Seton

Four South Africans and three British businessmen appeared amid strict security before Coventry magistrates yesterday charged with evading United Nations' prohibitions on the export of strategic goods to South Africa, allegedly involving components used in anti-missile weaponry.

The appearance of the South Africans and one of the Englishmen in the same court on Saturday led to South Africa recalling Mr Marius Steyn, its ambassador to Britain, for consultations.

At yesterday's hearing the South Africans were remanded in custody until next Monday and the Englishmen were remanded on conditional bail until May 14, facing a charge that on December 6, 1981, at Heathrow airport, London, and elsewhere they were knowingly concerned in the export of Magnetrans with intent to

evade prohibitions on exports to South Africa.

The Englishmen in court were Derek Wilfred Salt, aged 59, of Westcliff Drive, Coventry, managing director of D. W. Salt Engineering, Coventry; Michael Gardiner, aged 55, of Chalfont, Chalfont, Devon, chairman of the company and Director of Fosseway Securities of Seaton, Devon, and Michael Swann, aged 33, of Royston, Hertfordshire, an export buyer.

The South Africans remanded in custody were Hendrix Botha, aged 49, a company director; Stephanus D'Jager, aged 49, a financier; William Metelkerkamp, aged 42, a managing director and Jacobus H. Grange, aged 38, an engineer.

The recall is being viewed in Johannesburg as an indication of the Government's displeasure at the arrest of the four men by the British authorities (our Johannesburg Correspondent writes).

Bar leaders' riposte to Law Society

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the Bar, including Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, last night delivered their riposte to the Law Society over its campaign for increased advocacy rights in higher courts.

A special committee issued a unanimous statement on behalf of the Bar Council noting with regret that the society "has once again thought it necessary to raise the issue of solicitors' rights of audience."

The question had been debated exhaustively twice in 12 years, first in 1971/72, when the society made an application to the Lord Chancellor and again by the Royal Commission on Legal Services between 1976 and 1979, the statement said.

"The Bar Council takes the view that the paramount consideration in these matters must be the interests of the general public."

After hearing evidence from all interested parties, the royal commission concluded the public interest required "a separate corps of specialist advisers and advocates" and recommended no general extension to solicitors' rights of audience.

The Government, in its White Paper in response to that commission last October, accepted that recommendation: "There can be no sensible suggestion that the loss by the solicitors' profession of the conveyancing monopoly alters this well-settled public interest in any way."

The Bar committee was fully attended by about 20 barristers, Mr Callimore, who was addressing an international symposium organized by the Irish Livestock and Meat Board, pointed out that only one fifth of total household expenditure in Britain was on food, a figure which had declined year by year. Moreover, one sixth of that expenditure was on meals eaten outside the home.

production figures have somewhat been distorted, for example if their herds were suffering from disease in 1981.

There are about 40,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales and about 50,000 in the whole of the United Kingdom. The average herd in England and Wales is 65 cows and the average yield a cow slightly more than 5,000 litres a year.

The union has estimated that the scheme to curb surplus production will cost the average dairy farmer £45 a week. Since average incomes after tax last year were only £2,500, in theory many farmers could be forced out of business.

Royal visits to power stations likely to go ahead

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Plans for the inauguration by members of the Royal Family of two of the Central Electricity Generating Board's new power stations in the next three months are going ahead despite the miners' dispute.

The possibility of the Drax B coal-fired station in Yorkshire and the Dinorwic hydro-power station in Gwynedd becoming embroiled in the dispute has been discounted. More than 20 of the board's 95 power stations are now being picketed.

Drax B is due to be officially opened by the Queen in June and the Dinorwic station in May by the Prince of Wales.

The board's official position is that it is not directly involved in the miners' dispute, although various contingency plans have been drawn up and can be put into operation at short notice.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said that the engage-

ments at the two power stations would be reviewed only if the hosts involved made a request to do so.

Dinorwic, deep inside a Snowdonia mountain, can feed power into the national grid for up to five hours. It has been designed to operate only when demand is high.

The board is considering increasing oil generated power from the 2,000 megawatt Kingsnorth station in Kent, its only station capable of generating electricity from both coal and oil.

At present coal is being used but a switch to oil could be made within hours if coal stocks fall below the level regarded as the safe minimum. Kingsnorth is one of the board's "top ten" producers of power.

The board also has small turbine-powered stations in London, Watford, Leicester and

Letchworth, which could contribute to the national grid at short notice. These unmanned stations use generating equipment similar to that on the North Sea oil production rigs.

A large North Sea platform such as the Marathon Brae A platform, due to be officially opened next week, generates enough power to supply a city the size of Leicester from gas normally burnt as waste.

The local turbine stations have seldom been used, because they have to depend on aviation-type fuel which makes the electricity they produce 70 per cent more expensive than that produced by coal or nuclear power.

Nuclear power stations now contribute about 18 per cent of Britain's electricity, but as they are run as base-load stations and turned off only for maintenance it is unlikely that they would be used to make up the

shortfall from coal-fired stations.

The board is therefore concentrating on producing more power from its five big oil-fired stations to preserve its coal stocks, and on persuading the Government to pay for the increased use of oil. These stations normally produce 4 per cent of the board's output.

Farmer swings bullish deal

A Hampshire farmer has bought a new car by trading in his old car and twenty bullocks. The firm took the car and bullocks from the farmer, who has not been identified, in exchange for a £13,000 Toyota Land Cruiser.

The owner of the car company, Marshall Rolf Ltd, of Southampton, is Mr C G Marshall, who is also a farmer.

Bank union strikers return for talks

By Our Labour Reporter

One of the longest and most embarrassing industrial disputes between a union and its officials over the appointment of a head for a computer department was brought to an end yesterday.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union has agreed to reinstate Mr Ram Saddul, a data control manager at the union's headquarters in Wimbledon, south London after a

month-long strike involving up to 130 officials.

The strikers, who belong to white collar union, the Association of Professional, Executive Clerical and Computer Staffs, have agreed that Mr Saddul will remain on leave and on full pay pending the result of further talks. If there is no settlement by the end of the month, Mr Saddul will appoint an inquiry.

Farmers still in the dark on milk quotas

By John Young

Dairy farmers in Britain, as in much of the rest of Europe, are still in the dark about how the EEC's new scheme to curb surplus milk production will operate, and how it will affect them individually.

The European Commission has given Britain the choice of a national quota of either its 1981 production figure of about 15 million tonnes plus 2 per cent this year and 1 per cent thereafter, or a cut of 7.32 per cent in the 1983 figure of about 16,500,000 tonnes. It has not yet been decided which formula to adopt.

The Government has also to decide whether to decree a quota for every farmer or to set a limit on the amount to be produced by each of the dairies owned by the Milk Marketing Boards in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The possibility that the system may vary from one region to another has not been ruled out.

Meat sales 'hit by TV viewing'

By John Young

By 1990 three quarters of all beef would be sold in standard processed and packaged cuts, nearly twice as much as at present, and traditional high-quality joints would be needed only for special occasions and by restaurants, Mr Colin Callimore, managing director of Dewhurst, said in Dublin yesterday.

Meal times used to be the "trotter pole" round which the day and week revolved, he said, and cinemas, theatres, concerts and paises de danse all timed their programmes to suit the gastronomic clocks of their patrons.

levy of 75 per cent, amounting to about £127 a tonne, on all excess production.

If the quotas are allotted to the dairies, the levy will rise to 100 per cent, or about £170 a tonne, which means that a dairy would have to limit the amount it bought from each of its suppliers.

Although the marketing boards do not have a total monopoly, it is intended that so-called produce-processors, who sell direct to customers and account for 2 per cent of the market, should be brought into the scheme.

The only exemptions are likely to be for farmers whose

Meat sales 'hit by TV viewing'

By John Young

Today all that was reversed. For much of the population the "trotter pole" was the television set, and the pattern of life woven round the starting times of popular soap operas or quiz shows.

Mr Callimore, who was addressing an international symposium organized by the Irish Livestock and Meat Board, pointed out that only one fifth of total household expenditure in Britain was on food, a figure which had declined year by year. Moreover, one sixth of that expenditure was on meals eaten outside the home.

production figures have somewhat been distorted, for example if their herds were suffering from disease in 1981.

There are about 40,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales and about 50,000 in the whole of the United Kingdom. The average herd in England and Wales is 65 cows and the average yield a cow slightly more than 5,000 litres a year.

The union has estimated that the scheme to curb surplus production will cost the average dairy farmer £45 a week. Since average incomes after tax last year were only £2,500, in theory many farmers could be forced out of business.

Peace camp eviction postponed

By Pat Healy

The expected eviction of a writ evicting women from the original "peace" camp outside the main gate of Greenham Common RAF base in Berkshire was postponed yesterday.

Hundreds of women arrived over the weekend to join the 30 women living at the camp in resisting the eviction. That had been forecast for 8 am after the Department of Transport obtained a High Court possession order on the land, which is needed for road widening.

The Greenham women were evicted yesterday at the delay but they alerted supporters that more women would be needed to prevent further eviction attempts.

Mr Nicholas Blandy, under-sheriff for Berkshire, visited the camp just before 9am yesterday with Mr Richard van der Pump, the sheriff's officer.

But after Mr Blandy had viewed the camp, which was occupied by about four hundred women, he drove off.

Later, from his office in Reading, Mr Blandy said that it was his duty "to arrange the execution of the writ of possession in such a manner as to minimize the possibility of a breach of the peace."

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Spread a little happiness: Mr Neil Kinnock with the Pearly King of Chelsea, Mr Bill West, and Mrs Barbara Castle, Labour MEP for Greater Manchester North at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, yesterday. They were attending a gala for pensioners at which Mr Kinnock handed out a mini-

mountain of 2,000 pats of butter worth £500 supplied by Manchester Co-op. Each 125 gramme pat was labelled "a little bit of butter mountain". The gala launched a campaign to encourage pensioners to vote for Labour in the European parliamentary elections in June.

Revenue's tax chasers raise £138,000 each

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The 2,495 Inland Revenue staff who specialize in chasing tax dodgers earned £344m for the Exchequer last year, £138,000 in extra tax, interest and penalties each, the Treasury says.

Since 1979 the number of staff investigating tax evasion has risen steadily as has their productivity.

In 1979, 1,650 people were employed on investigative work, raising an additional £100m, or £60,000 a head in extra taxes.

The 1983 staffing figure is not strictly comparable because it includes the time spent on investigation (in full-time equivalents) by staff with other duties.

But the figures, revealed yesterday in a parliamentary

	Staff employed on tax evasion	Extra revenue raised £m	Revenue head £1000
1979	1,650	99.8	60
1980	1,659	127.9	77
1981	1,686	155.9	79
1982	2,196	250.1	115
1983	2,495	344.0	138

answer will provide further ammunition for the Civil Service trade unions, which have constantly argued that government staffing cuts in the Inland Revenue will affect the state's income and thus leave taxpayers worse off.

The revenue from each additional investigating official is many times the extra salary providing excellent value for public money, the unions argue.

Prince on course

Prince Edward, aged 20, arrived at RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire yesterday to start a three-week flying refresher course with the University of London air squadron to keep his private pilot's licence up to date.

Royal twins bet

William Hill, the book-makers, yesterday closed its books on the sex of the royal baby after taking substantial bets that the Princess of Wales will have twins. It originally offered 50-1 against twins, but reduced those odds to 10-1.

£250,000 in stamps stolen from van

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

London detectives are investigating what is believed to be Britain's largest stamp theft in which thousands of stamps worth a total of £250,000 were taken from a van on its way to Heathrow airport and an auction in South Africa.

The stamps were being put up for auction by Stanley Gibbons in Johannesburg on April 11 and 12 but the company said yesterday that the auction had been cancelled. Of 1,456 lots to have been offered at the sale, 1,400 had been stolen.

The stamps, with individual values as high as £2,500, disappeared after they were loaded in five boxes into a Ford Transit van last week at the company's offices in the Strand in central London.

The van owned by a west London freight company had several calls to make before going to the airport.

The driver parked in St Mary Axe, in the City, to collect another item.

QL delivery date delayed again

Sinclair, which launched its latest microcomputer, the QL, in January with a promise to deliver the first machines by the end of February, has postponed the delivery date for the second time. First deliveries will now take place later this month (Our Technology Correspondent writes).

After the initial delivery date could not be met, because of problems on microchips and software, the company said that first deliveries would be made by the end of March.

In February Sinclair was asked by the Advertising Standards Authority to amend its promise to deliver the QL within 28 days.

Police Bill appeal by 200 editors

More than 200 editors of national and regional newspapers have supported a letter to the Home Office urging the Government to remove all references to journalism from the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

The list of names appearing in this week's issue of *UK Press Gazette*, a journalism newspaper, includes the editors-in-chief of the Press Association and Reuters; the director-general of the BBC, Mr Alastair Milne, and the editor and chief executive of Independent Television News, Mr David Nicholas.

Correction

In the table on March 27, "Readership of broadsheet national newspapers", the number of women *Daily Telegraph* readers should have been 1,529,000. The readership was supplied not by the Audit Bureau of Circulations but by the National Readership Survey carried out by Research Services Ltd.



Spread a little happiness: Mr Neil Kinnock with the Pearly King of Chelsea, Mr Bill West, and Mrs Barbara Castle, Labour MEP for Greater Manchester North at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, yesterday. They were attending a gala for pensioners at which Mr Kinnock handed out a mini-

Beer output up 10.6% in February

Beer production jumped 10.6 per cent in February compared with the same month last year, the Brewers' Society reported yesterday. That followed a rise in January of 2.3 per cent.

Special factors were at work in February but it still looks as if there was an increase in sales of up to 3 per cent judging from reports from brewers.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$4.25; Belgium 8 frs 50c; Canada \$1.10; Denmark 1.80; Finland 1.80; France 1.80; Germany 1.80; Greece 1.80; Holland 1.80; India 1.80; Ireland 1.80; Italy 1.80; Japan 1.80; Korea 1.80; Malaysia 1.80; Mexico 1.80; New Zealand 1.80; Norway 1.80; Portugal 1.80; Spain 1.80; Sweden 1.80; Switzerland 1.80; Taiwan 1.80; Thailand 1.80; Turkey 1.80; USA 1.80; USSR 1.80; Yugoslavia 1.80.

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£250,000 in stamps stolen from van

By Stewart Tindler
Crime Reporter

London detectives are investigating what is believed to be the largest theft of stamps in the world. A total of £250,000 worth of stamps were stolen from a van on the way to an airport in South Africa. The stamps were being sent for auction in Johannesburg on April 11 and 12. The van was owned by a man who had been in the area for some time. The stamps were stolen from a van on the way to an airport in South Africa. The stamps were being sent for auction in Johannesburg on April 11 and 12. The van was owned by a man who had been in the area for some time.

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Police Bill expected by 200 editors

More than 200 national and local newspapers have agreed to support the Home Office's new Police Bill. The bill is expected to be passed by the House of Commons. The bill is expected to be passed by the House of Commons. The bill is expected to be passed by the House of Commons.

Correction

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Transplant surgeons use single donor for five separate operations

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Five patients were recovering in three hospitals last night after operations in which they all received organs transplanted from the same donor. After a man's widow gave permission, surgeons transplanted his heart into a woman at Harefield Hospital, west London; his corneas into the eyes of a male and female patients in one Birmingham hospital, and his kidneys and

pancreas into two other patients in another Birmingham hospital.

The man, aged about 40, died suddenly in the Bromsgrove area of Birmingham on Saturday. He had told his wife that he was willing for his body to be used to help others and she authorized surgery immediately.

A helicopter flew surgeons

Transplants to continue

By Thomson Prentice

Surgeons will continue to perform combined heart-lung transplant operations, in spite of the deaths of the only two patients in Britain to have undergone the surgery. The second, Mrs Jean Jones, died yesterday. A spokesman for Mr Magdi Yacoub, the senior surgeon at Harefield Hospital, East London, who did both operations, said: "Where the patient is willing, where the organs are available and where we feel there is no hope for any other alternative, we will continue heart-lung transplants."

Mrs Jones, aged 48, of Merry Hill, Wolverhampton,

underwent a 15 hour operation on March 15, but her condition did not improve enough for her to be taken off a ventilator. She lived three days longer after surgery than Mr Lars Ljungberg, a Swedish journalist, who survived 14 days after his operation last December.

In both cases, the hospital has emphasized that the transplant did not fail. Death in Mr Ljungberg's case was attributed to kidney failure. Mrs Jones's new heart finally "surrendered" after being placed under extraordinary strain by the failure of other organs, the hospital said.

from Harefield hospital, including the chief surgeon, Mr Magdi Yacoub, to Birmingham, where they removed the man's heart in an operating theatre at Bromsgrove General Hospital. A removed heart has a "life" of four hours in which it remains useful.

At the same time, the potential recipient, an Italian woman who had been treated in London for heart disorders, was admitted to Harefield in anticipation of the transplant. Other surgeons removed the kidneys and pancreas of the dead man and performed two separate transplant operations on kidney patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. One patient received one kidney, the other was given both the pancreas and the second kidney.

Two patients awaiting cornea transplants were summoned to Bromsgrove General and operated on yesterday.

The Harefield team was flown back on Sunday afternoon and had completed the heart transplant by early evening. The woman recipient had not been named last night, but she was said to be recovering as expected.



Saving sheep: John Noakes, and Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at Losely Park, near Guildford, Surrey, yesterday. They were launching the Government's publicity campaign to stop dogs worrying livestock.

The latest figures show that each year farmers lose up to 10,000 animals, mostly sheep. The Government hopes to educate dog owners through television advertising, competitions in primary schools and a poster campaign. (Photograph: John Manning).

Solicitors back idea for building society

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A proposal that solicitors should set up their own building society because of competition from banks and building societies over house conveyancing has received enthusiastic support.

More than 250 letters of support, some representing whole firms, have been sent to Mr William Heath and Mr Edwin Lee, the west London solicitors who suggested the idea two months ago.

"It is indicative of the requirement of the profession to have its own society," Mr Heath said yesterday.

The proposal is for solicitors to link with a small building society, which would act as the headquarters. All solicitors involved would be members or directors, acting as agents for the society.

The solicitor/agent would collect money for investment and pay it into the society's

bank; and accept mortgage applications and send them on to the solicitors' building society. A postal service would replace "cash over the counter" for small deposits or withdrawals.

Although the scheme has not received Law Society backing, Mr Heath is raising the necessary £50,000 to form the society's reserves, with each solicitor-member, or firm, being asked to contribute £500. There have been 30 positive responses already.

Mr Heath estimates that if 5,000 solicitors joined, the society could be within the top 50 building societies in terms of assets within five years; and with 10,000 solicitors, within the top 20.

The Law Society is understood to be guarded about the proposal on the ground that solicitors would not be free to direct clients to the most appropriate building society.

Repairers 'at fault'

By Robin Young

Electrical repairers charge widely varying amounts for simple repairs and often carry out unnecessary and expensive work, according to a report by West Midlands County Council.

A survey was carried out in which its officers disconnected wires in otherwise faultless

tumble driers and television sets which were then taken for repair.

Only two of the fourteen traders asked to repair tumble driers diagnosed the fault precisely.

Charges made by the repairers ranged from £1 to £29.90. Five did unnecessary work and one invoiced for a new heating element.

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Satellite TV to be protected

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Two amendments are to be made to the Cable and Broadcasting Bill when it returns to the Commons, making criminal offences the illegal reception of television programmes from direct broadcasting satellites (DBS) and the supply of such unauthorized equipment.

The amendments are part of a programme to be implemented in the next few years to ensure that the supply of services on electronic media is properly protected by copyright.

The Copyright Act of 1956 is being re-drafted by the Department of Trade and Industry to include computer programs and computer files.

The two amendments to the Cable and Broadcasting Bill, drafted principally by the Home Office, are intended to apply to the type of television satellite service being discussed by a consortium headed by the BBC and the independent television companies.

The proposed strategy is for a satellite to be launched in 1987 with three channels containing a mixture of programming from BBC and independent sources.

The satellite services would be coded and require electronic conversion equipment. Subscribers would pay a monthly fee. Anyone receiving the services with a view to avoiding payment would under the new amendments, be open to prosecution, as would the equipment suppliers.

Computer horizons, page 17

Insurance for home contents set to rise

By Vivien Goldsmith

The effective cost of insuring the contents of houses seems certain to rise, especially for people who live in cities, after big rises in claims.

The Prudential Assurance group has decided to impose higher rates on inner-city areas which suffer from higher burglary rates.

It is considering the introduction of no-claims bonuses on its household contents policies. It may also ask policyholders to pay the first £50 or £60 of each claim, the excess system widely used with car insurance.

The Prudential, along with all the main insurance companies, lost heavily on domestic insurance last year and is looking at ways of curbing those losses.

Eagle Star is the only big insurance company to offer no-claims bonuses on domestic policies.

Eagle Star offers one free year's insurance for every five claim-free years. It has some £15 excesses.

Mr Michael Bryne, assistant superintendent of the fire and accidental department, said: "We try to award our policyholders with a good claims record."

But General Accident dropped its no-claims bonus system in 1976 because the cost of operating it was outstripping the income from it.

Bus users may lose vital services

By Patricia Clough

Night school pupils, early shift workers and drinkers who fear the breathtest could be left stranded under the Government's plans to make the country's bus services more profitable and competitive.

A study commissioned by the National Bus Company on the implications of the Government's plans has concluded that early morning, late evening, Sunday and some peak hour services would have to be stopped because they lose money. The cuts would mainly affect semi-rural areas and country towns, the company said.

The study by Professor Kenneth Gwilliam, professor of transport economics at Leeds University, will be used by the company to support its argument that deregulation of the bus industry would mean an end of uneconomic but socially desirable services.

The 50 large autonomous subsidiary companies which belong to the state-owned company keep those services going by a system of cross-subsidies. Together the companies account for a third of the bus services in England and Wales.

Those could be kept going, the spokesman said, only with higher subsidies from county councils.

One bonus for passengers, however, would be that the companies, freed from loss-making routes and competing with private services, would reduce their fares on many runs.

Seed pack differences

By Robin Young

Trading standards officers in the West Midlands using their most advanced weighing machines have detected that some packets of seeds contain up to four times as many as others of the same variety sold at similar prices.

In the case of Early Nantes carrots the difference between the average contents in rival seedsmen's packets selling at

30p was nearly 1,000 seeds. The number of seeds in individual suppliers' packs can vary by a tenth in either direction, but in general even the cheapest packets have enough seeds to produce all the plants the average family would require, provided they come up.

Council officials were not able to tell which seedsmen's strains would produce the best crops.

WONDERFUEL GAS

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Twenty years ago, before the North Sea discoveries, gas was already becoming the most popular domestic fuel — largely because of the success of the new gas fires and the growing new demand for central heating. It wasn't the cheapest fuel on the market then, though costs were being held down because of efficient new production and business methods. But its controllability, cleanliness, and other advantages, with the efficiency and attractiveness of the new gas appliances, made gas a winner.

Today, with 3 million more customers, gas is the long-established market leader. On latest figures, for example it accounts for over three-quarters of all new central heating installations in Britain. It still has all its natural advantages, and much of the equipment available today is even more efficient. In addition, despite the price increases of recent years, gas is the best buy in the energy market in almost all applications. In fact, it is significantly cheaper today, in real terms, than it was twenty years ago.

As the cost of the gas it buys from the North Sea has increased, British Gas has successfully pruned its other costs to keep prices to customers highly competitive. Indeed, a recent consultants' report, jointly commissioned by the Government and British Gas, concluded that the Corporation had an impressive record over the last ten years in the efficient management of the industry. The battle continues to improve performance still more.

HOW TO GET EVEN BETTER VALUE FROM GAS

But you can get even better value from gas by some simple energy conservation measures. Lagging your loft, putting an insulating jacket on your hot water tank and weather-stripping windows and doors are all low-cost — and effective — ways of saving gas.

And it doesn't cost anything to turn down your central heating thermostat a little, make sure your time clock only turns on the heating when you need it, or take a shower instead of a bath.

For more detailed information on how to make the most of good value gas, pick up a copy of our free leaflet from your gas showroom.

HELPFUEL WAYS OF SPREADING THE COST

Since most people are not paid quarterly, quarterly gas bills may be a bit of a headache, even though gas is good value. That's why the gas people offer a choice of ways to spread the cost of your gas more evenly throughout the year. You can pay monthly — by standing order or Post Office Giro, or in cash with our special Gas Vouchers, if you don't have a bank or Giro account.

Or if you'd prefer to put more aside at some times than at others, you can buy our Gas Savings Stamps at your gas showroom or from some sub-post offices.

Ask at your showroom for detailed information about any of these schemes.



WONDERFUEL VALUE AND HELPFUEL ADVICE - FROM THE GAS PEOPLE.

PARLIAMENT April 3 1984

Fowler reviews most radical since Beveridge

COMMONS

Two major reviews into social security, the budget for which now totals over £35 billion, were announced in the Commons by Mr. Nicholas Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Security. These, with other reviews and studies, constituted, he stated, the most substantial examination of the social security system since the Beveridge report 40 years ago.

Mr. Michael Mearns, chief Opposition spokesman on social services, feared the announcements were shadowed further cuts in public expenditure on social security. He said the statement bore the fingerprints of the Treasury.

Mr. Fowler said the first review, to be conducted by a team led by Mr. Anthony Newton, Under Secretary of State for Social Security, would be concerned with the supplementary benefit scheme which deals with well over four million claimants of whom 1.5 million are pensioners.

There are, according to the Secretary of State, seven million people living in households receiving supplementary benefit. Total spending on these benefits is over £5.5 billion. The system was complex to administer, he added, and difficult to understand.

The second review will be into benefits for children and young people and the review team will be headed by Dr. Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security. It will review the present social security arrangements for giving financial help to families with children and to young people above school leaving age.

There is also to be a full-scale survey into the extent of disability.

Mr. Fowler, in his statement, said: "I have already set in hand a thorough review of the largest single element of social security provision through the inquiry which I am chairing into provision for retirement. We have made good progress on that inquiry. I have received no less than 1,700 submissions from interested organisations and members of the public on the subject of portable pensions alone. We have completed our public sessions on that subject but I intend to hold further public sessions on the wider issues of pensions policy in the coming months."

I also announced in February that I intended to establish a review of the housing benefit scheme. That scheme, which accounts for some £4 billion of expenditure a year and is paid to one household in three, has increased rapidly in scale. The announcement of a review was widely welcomed and it will be chaired by Mr. Jeremy Rowe, chairman of the Peterborough Development Corporation deputy chairman of the Greater London Council Building Society and chairman of London Brick Company.

He will be commencing the review when his involvement with London Brick Company ends later this month and I expect them to announce the two other independent members of his review team.

Although these reviews represent a substantial undertaking, I believe the time is right to look at the other major parts of the social security system as well. Spending on the social security budget totals over £35 billion a year and accounts for

almost 30 per cent of all public expenditure. Payments including national insurance pensions - go to well over 20m beneficiaries; and the whole system requires the employment of almost 80,000 staff in my department to administer the various schemes.

Given the importance of social security, no responsible Government can avoid the duty to look carefully at the way the system works. I am therefore establishing two further reviews.

The first will be concerned with the supplementary benefit scheme, following the review undertaken by the last Government, a number of major changes in the scheme were introduced in 1980 to make the scheme subject to a much greater extent to specific parliamentary regulations. The aim was to consolidate legal entitlement to benefit and to reduce the dependence of the system on the discretion of staff.

The changes, however, have not resolved some central problems. In particular, the system is complex to administer and difficult to understand. The result is that it is still necessary for some 35,000 staff in my department to administer the supplementary benefit and the procedures and rules under which the scheme is administered remain extremely complicated both for staff and for claimants.

It is essential that we should look again at supplementary benefit and Mr. Anthony Newton, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, will lead a team which will review the structure of the scheme and consider the scope for simplifying its administration.

The second major area in which we have decided to review is required is that benefits for children and young people. At present we pay out very large sums of money through a particularly complex pattern of supplementary benefits. For instance, a working family may get help for children through child benefit alone, or with housing benefit, family income supplement, or parent benefit or a combination of them.

As for young people generally, the amount of social security support depends not just on personal or family circumstances, but on whether they are in employment, education or training. All these benefits have a sensible purpose but we need to be sure that this is the best way of providing support.

I have decided to establish a review, to be led by Mr. Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, to lead a team in reviewing the present social security arrangements for giving financial help to families with children, and to young people above school leaving age.

The largest remaining area within the social security programme is that of providing disability benefits. Here I propose a somewhat different approach. With the ending of the disability trap, the introduction of war pensioners' mobility supplement and our proposals for a severe disability allowance we are making useful progress towards coherent systems. We shall continue to look for further practical steps in this direction.

But it is clear in the longer term the development of our policy must be based on a reliable information about the numbers of disabled people, their circumstances and their needs. There has been no

implementing the supplementary levy, a secured important changes which will enable redistribution of quota to take place without restrictions relating to size of herd.

We are discussing the details with the Farmers' Unions and the Milk Marketing Board and information on the supplementary levy will be given to individual farmers as soon as possible. Meanwhile I would urge producers to consider carefully, and taking advice from local advisory officers, before deciding how to adapt their milk enterprises.

Another outstanding issue for us was the beef variable premium scheme. Despite very strong opposition from the Commission and other member states, I insisted on retaining this scheme in the UK. There is a small reduction in the maximum rate from 10.7 pence per kilogram to 8.5 pence which is higher than it was until 1982.

In order to remove possible distortion of competition in export markets, arrangements will be made to claw back the premium on exports which have benefited from it.

This outcome means that consumers and producers will continue to benefit from the premium scheme. We shall, of course, ensure

On the detailed arrangements for

McCrimdale: Start from scratch

comprehensive study of the extent of unemployment in the country for 15 years, and even that excluded some important groups.

I therefore intend to take steps to fill this gap in our knowledge by undertaking a full-scale survey. A feasibility study on this is already under way.

As to the arrangements for each review, they will all involve independent figures from outside government. The reviews will also follow the lead of the inquiry into provision for retirement by seeking public evidence.

Each of the reviews will aim to identify the needs which should be provided for and consider how, within the resource constraints we face, those needs can be most sensibly met. I have asked the leaders of each of the reviews to report their conclusions to me later this year.

Taken together, the various reviews and studies I have set in hand constitute the most substantial examination of the social security system since the Beveridge report 40 years ago.

Mr. Mearns, chief Opposition spokesman on social security, (Oxford West, Lab.) We suspect his statement has a good deal to do with the Treasury's plan to cut the number of people in the planning of yet further public expenditure cuts. The proposals have the fingerprints of the Treasury all over them.

It exposes the nature of the Government that the Treasury's own budgetary reports now show cumulative cuts to the rich since 1979 of £13,000 while the underclass cut backs in benefits to the poor since 1979 now exceed £5,000.

Will he give an assurance that, whatever else it does, the pensions inquiry will not erode the state earnings-related pension scheme which Labour introduced in 1975 and which offers pensioners the best deal they have ever had?

On housing benefit, will the terms of reference of the review team include no extra cost constraint? If so, how does he justify forcing through the £190m cut in benefit for the poor when, only three years ago, the Chancellor gave a £50m tax handout to the rich by abolishing the unearned income surcharge and halving stamp duty on share transactions?

On supplementary benefit, will he give a categorical assurance that reviewing the structure of the scheme will not involve any cutback in the level of coverage of supplementary benefit which is a vital safety net for the poorest claimants of all?

On benefits for children and young people, previous reviews have always involved cuts in benefit. Will he therefore give an unequivocal pledge that this time it will not be the same again?

On disability benefits, we support the principle of a comprehensive scheme but what is missing is not yet further information about the disabled but a readiness to give financial priority to them. Is he prepared to do that?

Mr. Fowler: It is in everyone's interest to see whether social

security schemes are working as efficiently as possible. The aim is to make the best use of the available resources and channel them to those areas where they are most needed.

Clearly the problem of working within the existing overall budget is one which remains and we must recognize there are resource restraints.

The supplementary benefit system is complex. There are two manuals of guidance with 16,000 paragraphs of instructions for staff inside the DSS which has 35,000 staff to administer the scheme. I would have thought it was in the interests of everyone, including the claimants, to ensure that the scheme is as simple as it possibly can be.

The Government will announce its proposals and, at that stage, will publish it to bring together the separate work of the reviews.

Mr. Robert McCrimdale (Brentwood, Essex, Con.) Starting from scratch on a clean sheet might be the best way, rather than changing a little bit here and there and thereby building up to the sort of manual of staff instructions which we have, including his own civil servants, understand.

Mr. Fowler: That is a fair point. One of the fundamental aims is to see if we can simplify the system.

Mr. Roy Galley (Halifax, C.) said some benefits appeared not to go to take tough decisions. But it would lose as well as others gain, particularly in view of the increasing number of single payments.

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Madden: Money now

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Six months' coal stocks at power stations

COAL DISPUTE

The considerable stocks of coal at the power stations are likely to last for more than six months. Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said during exchanges on the backing of the miners' strike by other unions.

Mr. Walker said that stocks held by other industries varied. He added that the miners should be allowed an opportunity to express their view.

The opening of the exchanges was delayed when the Speaker interrupted Mr. Walker in his reply to a private question by Mr. Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab.) and asked him to go beyond the question of coal by the transport unions.

The Speaker (Mr. Bernard Weatherill) had warned the House that the question concerned only the single matter not covered in earlier questions to energy ministers.

Mr. Benn then asked whether, in the light of the decision of the transport unions to support the National Union of Mineworkers, the Secretary of State would make a statement on energy supplies.

Mr. Walker: I gather that last week there was a meeting of national officers of six unions who said they would recommend to their members action which they described as in support of the NUM. They will be discussed in some detail by their executives and in others at branch level.

I hope that trade unions will take into consideration the fact that 14 out of 24 members of the NUM executive are mandated to support a national ballot.

Almost all areas of the NUM have been demonstrating decisively that they want to go on working and today there are 56 pits at work compared with 46 last week, and they are working normally.

The Speaker: I said at the beginning of this matter concerns the single matter of transport unions and has nothing to do with closures.

Mr. Walker: The question asked me about the action of union leaders last week, I am commenting that those unions are, as yet, in a state of discussing what they will do. I am expressing the hope that they will carefully consider the position of the NUM executive.

There is no specific action following the decision on which I am in a position to comment.

This is an industry to which the Government gives £2m capital development a day and I therefore hope...

Britain's export trade has been hit by the miners' industrial dispute while applications for the Government to allow the coal conversion scheme have virtually stopped, Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said during earlier Commons questions.

He reported, in particular, that the industrial action had forced ICI to put off a decision on coal conversion which would have involved 450,000 tonnes of coal a year.

Mr. Walker said that without the overtime ban and strike action, deep mined coal production would have been about 101.4m tonnes in 1983-84, and opencast production around 14m tonnes.

Mr. Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C.) Has he been reports that industrial gas contracts and export contracts are being impeded by the industrial action. Is not the outcome of this strike going to be that the NUM will have to close down more pits, rather than less, because of the industrial action?

Mr. Walker: Yes, I am concerned that there have been losses in our export trade. Only recently that Britain has been reported to have lost a large order for coal. This trade has been severely damaged. Applications for the coal conversion scheme have virtually stopped.

Mr. Trevor Skeet (Bedfordshire, Lab.) The current market dictates very much lower production of coal per year and the NUM is doing its best to destroy that market.

The Dangerous Vessels Bill, which empowers harbour masters to prohibit vessels from entering ports if they considered to be a danger to life, property or navigation, was read a second time in the House of Lords.

Lord Walsley (SDP), moving the second reading, said it was a long-established principle of navigation that the best use of the sea for ships should be free and open to all vessels. The Bill would modify this principle only in exceptional cases.

Why did not Mr. Jopling use his veto the substantial reduction in the variable beef premium? It is estimated this will lead to increases in beef prices of anything from 18p to 25p per lb for United Kingdom consumers. This settlement is bad for farmers, bad for consumers and bad for the taxpayers.

Mr. Jopling: Probably for the first time in a Community price package there is a prospect of food prices going down. As it being said, we have taken for the first time steps to reduce the overall cost of the CAP.

In this country we have the smallest proportion of poor farmers in the Community. The Government is saying we should have a settlement which was more slanted towards other countries in the Community.

It was with great difficulty that we managed to keep the beef premium arrangement still in effect. It will continue at a higher level than when the Labour Government left office.

Mr. Eric Deakin (Walthamstow, Lab.) How does this settlement affect the Prime Minister's pre-condition that agricultural expenditure should be reduced as a pre-condition for agreeing the increases in own resources?

Mr. Jopling: There is an understanding in this package that there will have to be a review if in the end the cost if the CAP continues to rise. If we exceed our budget for the CAP later in the year, then the whole thing will have to be looked at again.

Mr. Peter Hardner (Horsham, C.) The results of this settlement will be larger and more expensive surpluses, the impoverishment of the dairy farmers and the continued loss of jobs in the dairy sector. Why should they get fatter and the dairy farmers poorer?

Mr. Jopling: There are signs around the world and certainly in this country that there is going to be an extremely large crop of grain in the northern hemisphere this year.

If that happens and we get normal harvest conditions, and bearing in mind the increased level of grain production in the United States and North America in general, it is possible that the market price of grain may well do quite a lot to help the livestock industry.

It is impossible (he said later) to make an exact assessment of the effect on food prices of this package. In general we believe it will be about neutral, but to sum it up there are more likely to be price reductions than price increases.

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Mobile way to teach pupils new technology

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Four large mobile technology laboratories are taking to the roads to introduce technology to primary and secondary schools. Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, announced yesterday.

The large buses, equipped with microcomputers, robots and electronic equipment, have part of a new national programme, British School Technology, which aims to train teachers and increase the numbers learning technology in schools. One bus will be for girls only and another just for middle schools.

Funded by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Manpower Services Commission at a cost of £2.5m, the initiative is intended to be independent and self-financing. Local education authorities will have to pay for the services and the organisation will try to attract sponsors.

The venture is likely to create controversy because the Department of Education and Science is not involved, but also because the centre will be

private, selling its services to state schools.

Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary at the department said yesterday that he welcomed the programme and the Government was not concerned where the money came from.

Mr Baker said the purpose was to bring technology firmly into the schools for O and A level students, but also to introduce eight and nine-year-olds to the subject.

Based on a scheme developed by Trent Polytechnic in Nottingham and Bedfordshire education authority, British School of Technology will be available to all 104 education authorities in England and Wales.

Mr Baker said that the initiative had been a success in Bedfordshire. There were 7,000 O level technology students in England and Wales and 1,000 came from Bedfordshire, he said. There were between 200 and 300 students doing A level technology nationally.

About 10 authorities ran courses in technology.



Sands of time: Mr David Trapnell, an archaeologist, who has discovered a prehistoric forest and the remains of Stone Age animals on a north Devon beach.

The forest was exposed by storms on Westward Ho beach, near Bideford, and remains dating back to 6500 BC have been found.

Mr Trapnell said: "Thousands of years ago the land stretched right out to Lundy Island and this is what has been covered by the sand and sea".

Bones have been identified as those of oxen, dogs and deer, and scientists from the Ancient Monuments Laboratory have collected specimens for examination.

Rebuke for council over abortion on girl in care

A London borough council exceeded its authority in arranging an abortion for a teenage ward of court in its care, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Balcombe in the Family Division said that although he approved of the operation on the girl aged 16 Lambeth council should have sought the court's consent.

The girl had been a ward of court since 1979. The abortion was performed at the beginning of this year.

"From the information I have, it seems to me that it was in the best interests of the girl," the judge said. However while ratifying what had been done he said that any local council in Lambeth's position had to obtain the approval of the court before taking any important step in relation to a ward of court.

He said that by the time the pregnancy was confirmed the abortion had become an "emergency". Nevertheless, High Court consent could be obtained at very short notice.

What had happened in this case - and it was not in his experience unique - was a breakdown in communication



Solidarity: Mr Lech Walesa with high school students in Gdansk, where he pledged his backing for their campaign against the removal of crucifixes from schools.

Soviet dilemma over US election

Anti-American rhetoric again

From Richard Owen Moscow

Mr Konstantin Chernenko's first two months in power have not on the whole been notable for their dynamism. When the late Yuri Andropov came to power his first moves were analysed with expectancy, and he obliged by coming up with hints and initiatives on Afghanistan, China and arms control.

Under Mr Chernenko Russia has, if anything, dug deeper into its Afghan bunker, despite press reports that the Army's role there is unappreciated at home, and the Sino-Soviet "consultations" remain in the doldrums.

As for East-West relations, Mr Chernenko's initial talk of a more constructive relationship with the United States has not so far been followed up. On the contrary, Moscow's anti-American rhetoric is back at the vituperative level achieved during Andropov's last months, when he apparently became convinced that rapprochement with the White House was out of the question as long as Mr Reagan occupied it.

According to diplomatic observers, Mr Chernenko and the leadership now face an awkward dilemma. Mr Chernenko's election - or selection - has come in a year when America faces a real electoral contest. If the Kremlin helps Mr Reagan by making conciliatory gestures on arms control it will enable him to present himself to voters as a statesman.

Moscow might then have to

CHERNENKO IN CHARGE



Part 2

far he can pursue it in the current climate.

The Kremlin was irritated when Mrs Thatcher suggested in *The Times* that détente had weakened the Western powers. Tass described détente in the 1970s as an historical necessity which had had "important, positive results". The present "bleak reality" could be reversed since détente - again - had "struck deep roots".

But détente was the policy of the Brezhnev era, and some suspect that Mr Chernenko is simply trying to turn the clock back at home and abroad out of loyalty to his former mentor.

But on the international front it is not so easy to restore "Brezhnevism" when the climate and circumstances have changed.

Further clues on East-West relations will come when the foreign ministers of Italy and West Germany visit Moscow in May, and when Sir Geoffrey Howe follows them in July.

The latest Soviet tactic is to suggest that Mr Reagan's more conciliatory comments in election year are a front, while America's true "militaristic adventurism" is openly pursued by "reckless Pentagon conservatives".

Mr Chernenko may not be averse to a summit - after all, he was at Brezhnev's elbow at many previous summits - but for the time being the Kremlin is in the hands of hard men of the old generation who tend to look back rather than forward.

Concluded

Crackdown on Polish petrol pump 'shaikhs'

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

If you want to get rich quick in the West there are well-established routes, charted in dozens of station kiosk best-sellers: Harvard Business School perhaps, followed by some commodity trading, a swift property deal, a dabble in the stock exchange, a tax refuge. . . . If in doubt, *Dallas* points the way.

In Poland it is enough to become a petrol pump attendant. Until last Sunday, when prices were raised by 25 per cent and attendants ordered to sell petrol strictly for ration coupons, filling stations were a pit stop on the road to riches.

Known as the Polish shaikhs, the attendants are managers who were able to manipulate the scarcity of petrol to their advantage. Most Poles believe that, despite the new restrictions, the shaikhs will continue to flourish.

The system until now has been that the motorist presents a ration card to be stamped by the garage attendant, who also marks down the registration number of the vehicle. But for most drivers the ration was hopelessly inadequate so, in return for a bribe, the attendant either forgot to stamp the card or topped up the tank at a more expensive rate.

No strict control could be made on the amount of petrol that had exchanged hands illegally and attendants devised dozens of convincing explanations for shortfalls. A favourite was "evaporation": whole underground petrol tanks have been known to evaporate in a busy week.

Other rackets, which are practised in Hungary and East Germany as well, include long-distance lorry drivers selling off their surplus diesel fuel to petrol stations. It is common practice to hail a lorry, which may have filled up in a company petrol station and siphon off a few litres.

Even an honest petrol pump attendant earns 25,000 Zloties (£160) a month, the salary of a surgeon or a senior civil servant. With regular bribes he can quadruple that sum.

Under the new system the shaikhs will have to tear off coupons for every litre of petrol sold. The number of coupons will have to tally with the meter and the meters will be checked by state inspectors. That seems infallible, but worse bridges have been crossed by black marketeers.

Whitehall brief

The foreigners who share British intelligence

By Peter Hennessy

One of the best and longest kept secrets of routine Whitehall intelligence work is the presence of officials representing foreign governments at a regularly weekly meeting of a British Cabinet committee. They sit on it as of right under the terms of an unpublished treaty.

Every Wednesday morning, an American, a Canadian, an Australian and a New Zealander mingle in a secure, debugged room in Whitehall with officers from M15, M16, Foreign Office diplomats, civil servants from the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Treasury and the Government Communications Headquarters and a handful of military men from the Chiefs of Staff secretariat.

Once this international gathering is called to order, the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) is in business. It is a constitutional oddity, but one that has flourished under Labour and Conservative governments and goes back to

the era of allied cooperation on intelligence matters in the Second World War.

Collaboration is formalised under a secret intelligence concordat of 1946, the UK - USA Treaty (known in Whitehall as "you-koo-sah"), which also covers Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Whether it would survive under a future Labour government committed to a non-nuclear defence policy, and pledged to rid the country of United States bases, is an interesting question.

Nobody in Whitehall has addressed it yet. Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, has no ministerial experience and it is therefore probable that he does not know about the Americans et al sitting on the committee. Though as a privy counsellor he could have been told about them if he had asked about the committee's work.

The allies attend only the first part of the meeting when the committee deals with assessments of current intelligence, to which the American contribution is crucial and

predominant. Once the committee turns to Whitehall issues, the foreigners leave.

The JIC's activities have been in the news recently. It appears that Philip Aldridge, the former Army Intelligence Corps lance corporal jailed after being convicted of preparing to spy for Russia, leaked one of its weekly assessments in 1982. *The Times* reported yesterday that the committee's economic assessments sub-committee was boosting its efforts with the aim of securing improved intelligence on Britain's potential enemies and commercial rivals.

But one important aspect of JIC life has received scant attention: its attempt to put right the deficiencies identified in last year's Franks report on the Falklands. Though there is no complacency about the possibility of an unforeseen crisis overwhelming the Cabinet, there is a belief inside the intelligence community that the chances have diminished.

For example, the intelligence gathering agencies, M15, M16,

GCHQ and the Defence have been "retasked". It should be easier for intelligence officials at the sharp end who feel uneasy or apprehension - however little the hard evidence seems to justify it - to have their views considered in the intelligence groups which feed the JIC and, through it, ministers on the Prime Minister's Overseas and Defence Committee.

There is also a new system for ensuring that reports are not simply pigeonholed once the JIC has considered them. The post-Franks right of personal access to the Prime Minister enjoyed by the chairman of the JIC is being used.

Lusiders remain adamant that it was extraordinarily difficult to penetrate the military junta in Buenos Aires in the early 1980s where decisions were concentrated in the hands of a small group of secretive people prone to act on impulse. But they insist that never again will the JIC wait for nine months (as happened between July 1981 and March 1982 on the Falklands) before updating an assessment.

EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP 1984

THE RACING LEGEND GROWS

Jaguar 1st, Monza, April 1st, 1984*

Nowhere is excellence harder to attain, and so crucial to success, than on the motor racing circuit.

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Donington, Derby, UK	29th April
Pergusa, Enna (Sicily)	13th May
Brno, Czechoslovakia	10th June
Zeltweg, Graz, Austria	17th June
Salzburg, Austria	1st July
Nurburg, Germany	8th July
Spa, Belgium	28th & 29th July
Silverstone (TT), UK	9th September
Zolder, Hasselt, Belgium	23rd September
Mugello, Florence, Italy	21st October

* Subject to official confirmation.

JAGUAR The legend grows

SS 20s upstaged by budget wrangles



At the very moment that the fur was flying fastest at the EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels last week a sparsely attended press conference four miles down the road at Nato headquarters was being given some grim new statistics.

Mr Richard Burt was telling the few journalists able to tear themselves away from the EEC's war of attrition over budget payments that the Soviet Union was completing three new SS20 bases and that before long there would be no less than 1,215 Russian nuclear warheads ready for firing.

The American chairman of Nato's special consultative group had been having his regular meeting with other members of the alliance to keep them up to date about the progress - or lack of it - towards resumption of the Geneva nuclear arms limitation talks.

Not all that long ago his statistics of new SS20 bases would have commanded considerable attention and the EEC foreign ministers down the road might have been expected to comment on them. As it was, they were far too busy hurling insults and building fortifications around their own entrenched positions to notice.

To be fair, the ministers did eventually find time in the margins of their slanging match to agree a declaration on East-West relations. It had been prepared for the summit, but when that collapsed it was felt inappropriate to make a statement on "peace and stability in Europe". Instead, it was issued, almost unnoticed, by the foreign ministers.

Arms questions divide EEC

The declaration reiterates the well established Community position on the need for a "constructive dialogue" and for freer contact between peoples - in particular between those of the two German states.

It talks of one of the more delicate subjects for the EEC - security and disarmament talks.

Ireland is belligerently neutral and will brook no discussion of defence subjects inside the EEC. A year of so ago, during a Nato Council meeting in Luxembourg, all the EEC foreign ministers had to

make a wearisome journey across the Kirschberg to a different building because Ireland refused to send a delegation into a place which Nato had been using.

Nevertheless, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the EEC to stay out of defence topics. Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, travelled to Brussels last month to press his view that it is impossible for the Community to be taken really seriously in the world unless it strikes a defence posture. He is not a lone voice.

Euro Parliament debates defence

M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, has been tinkering with the idea of upgrading the Western European Union in the belief that this will help strengthen Europe as the second pillar of Nato. This is a realistically strong of France's passionately strong of independence. It is a recognition that the only way to stand up to America on equal terms within Nato is as part of Europe.

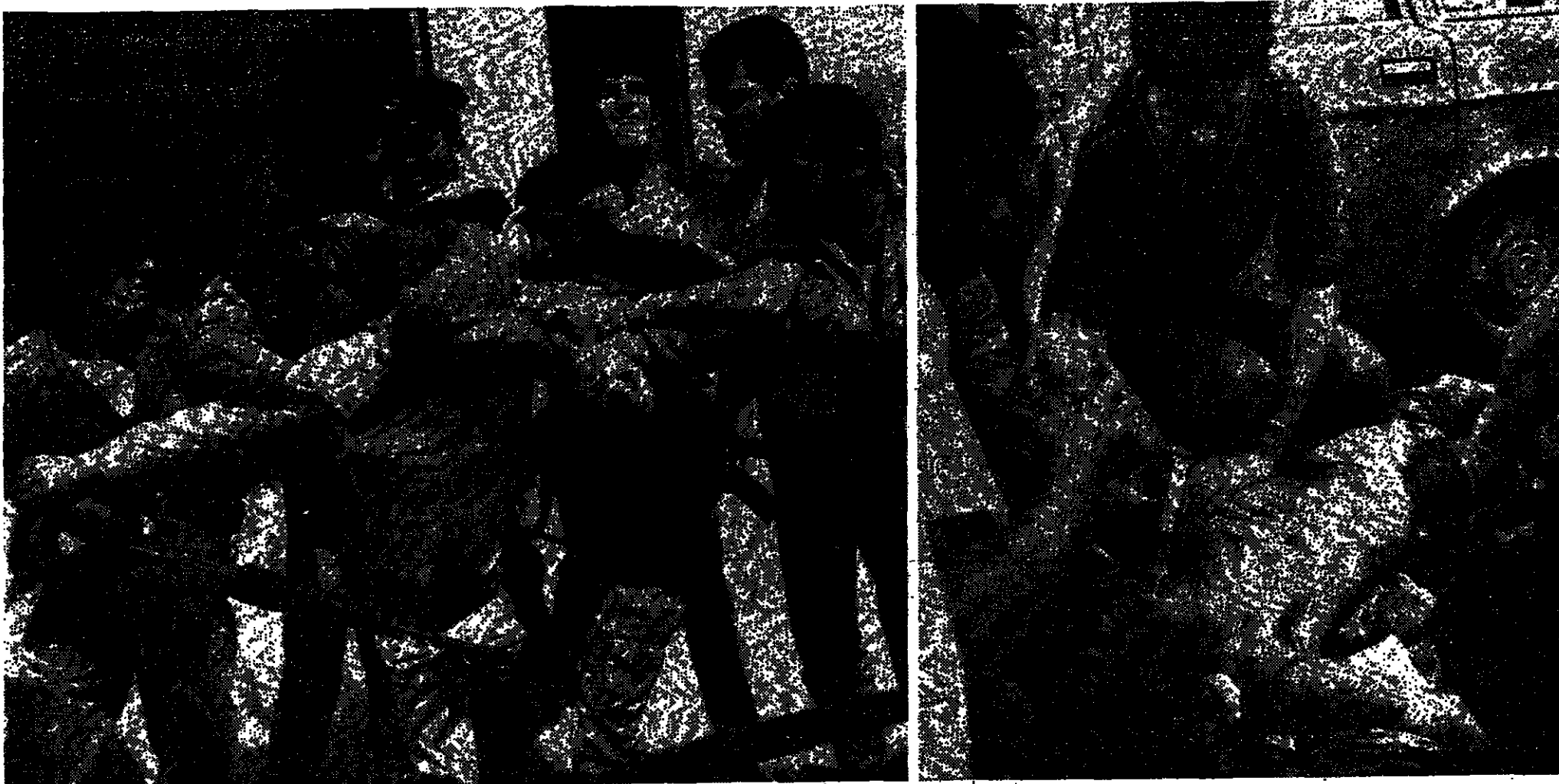
Inside the European Parliament there has been a more economic argument about the need for a joint European defence effort. Mr Adam Ferguson, the MEP for Strathclyde West, succeeded in presenting a report at the end of last year calling for much closer cooperation in arms manufacture.

This, he argued, would rationalize the European arms industry, which is too fragmented to compete with the United States. As a result, British bullets do not fit Belgian guns. West German tanks are built to different specifications to those needed by other armies and research money is wasted on rival programmes.

With the United States Congress trying to pressure Europe into spending much more on conventional defence, the logical answer is industrial cooperation, which could best be coordinated by the EEC - if only its 10 members would forget their nationalism.

But with the Community squabbling on and on about who should pay for what, that sort of cooperation requires more mutual trust than is currently available.

Ian Murray



Jerusalem violence: Israeli troops (left) seize a suspect after three Palestinian guerrillas staged a grenade attack yesterday, and an army doctor tries to revive a gunman hit by return fire.

Prisoners of conscience Taiwan:

Chang Chun-nan

By Caroline Moorehead

Chang Chun-nan is a former primary school teacher and the father of three young school children. In March, 1981, he was sentenced to three and a half years in prison for having called on the people of Taiwan to overthrow the Government



Mr Chang: Father of three children



and make the country "independent".

This came shortly after he made a series of speeches when standing as candidate for the Legislative Council in the elections of December, 1980. Mr Chang has argued that his actual campaign speeches have been grossly misrepresented and distorted.

In 1972, Mr Chang, then in his early 30s, was elected to the National Assembly for a term of office of six years. When, in 1980, the elections for the Legislative Council, or Yuan, were held, he decided to stand as an independent, non-Kuomintang, candidate. He failed to be elected.

Since his arrest, Mr Chang has been held in Taichung prison. He is known to be ill.

Priest accuses Fifth Brigade of genocide in Matabeleland

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Zimbabwe's Catholic Bishops meet here today in an atmosphere of expectation after a priest's dramatic denunciation at the weekend of Army operations which, he said, amounted to a genocidal attempt to wipe out the minority Ndebele tribe.

Allegations of Army atrocities in Matabeleland, which have again come to the fore since a curfew was imposed on the southern half of the province in February, can be expected to dominate the proceedings at the annual Catholic bishop's conference, which continues until Thursday.

Reports from the curfew area since February point to widespread beatings of Ndebele civilians, killings and a programme of systematic starvation by the Army, which has cut off food supplies. However, provisions have been allowed in recently.

The Catholic Church, an

outspoken critic of human rights violations in the past, particularly during the UDI years, has so far made no comment on the new situation in Matabeleland.

But in a sermon at Harare's Catholic cathedral on Sunday, Father Jon Gough, an unmarried and semi-retired priest, told a startled congregation about what he termed an attempt to "wipe out" the Ndebele. This minority group is deemed hostile to Zimbabwe's Shona-speaking majority and believed by some Army commanders to be supporting anti-Government guerrillas.

"What we are facing is genocide, a fact the United Nations and other countries know but we are not told about", Father Gough claimed.

He was, he said, not afraid to speak out because he had no dependents who might be victimized.

He spoke of "babies being dropped into boiling water and

people being buried to their necks and shot", and blamed the Fifth Brigade, the North Korean-trained shock force deployed in Matabeleland. He gave no figures and made no other specific allegations.

In an interview last night, Father Gough said he had decided to speak alone because ordinary people had been upset by the silence of the Church in the past two months. "The Church is being prudent, people don't want to rock the boat. A lot have been intimidated".

Asked about his claim that in some cases soldiers had given their victims a choice between being shot and gassed, he said he did not know how the gassing would have been carried out, but supposed it would have been in a car.

"I deliberately decided not to go to Matabeleland because people there have been intimidated and they might later have been linked to me," he added.

Colombian rebels agree truce

Bogotá (Reuters) - President Belisario Betancur of Colombia announced that Colombia's largest guerrilla group has agreed to an indefinite ceasefire, tentatively scheduled to begin on May 28.

It would open a period in which the 4,000-strong Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) would be allowed openly to "organize politically, economically and socially".

Since taking power in August, 1982 Señor Betancur has made a big effort to end violence in which more than 20,000 people have died since 1958.

After taking office he announced an amnesty for guerrillas willing to lay down their arms, and a Peace Commission was later appointed to hold talks with them.

Señor Betancur said the commission signed the ceasefire agreement in a meeting with the FARC leader, Señor Manuel Marulanda Vélez.

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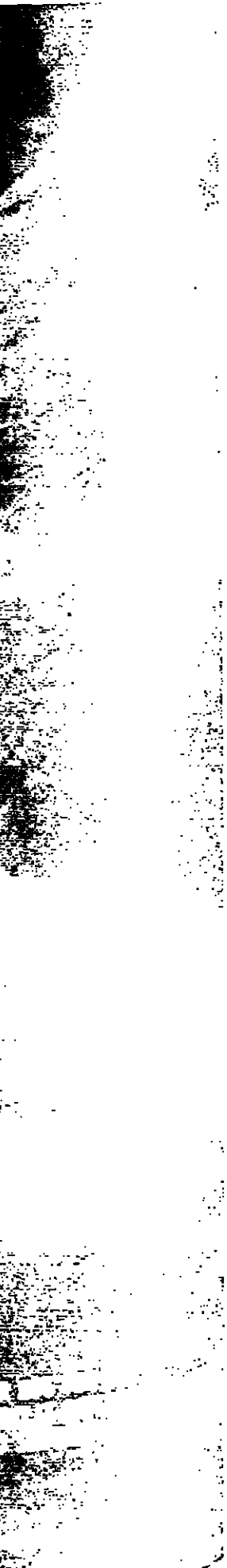
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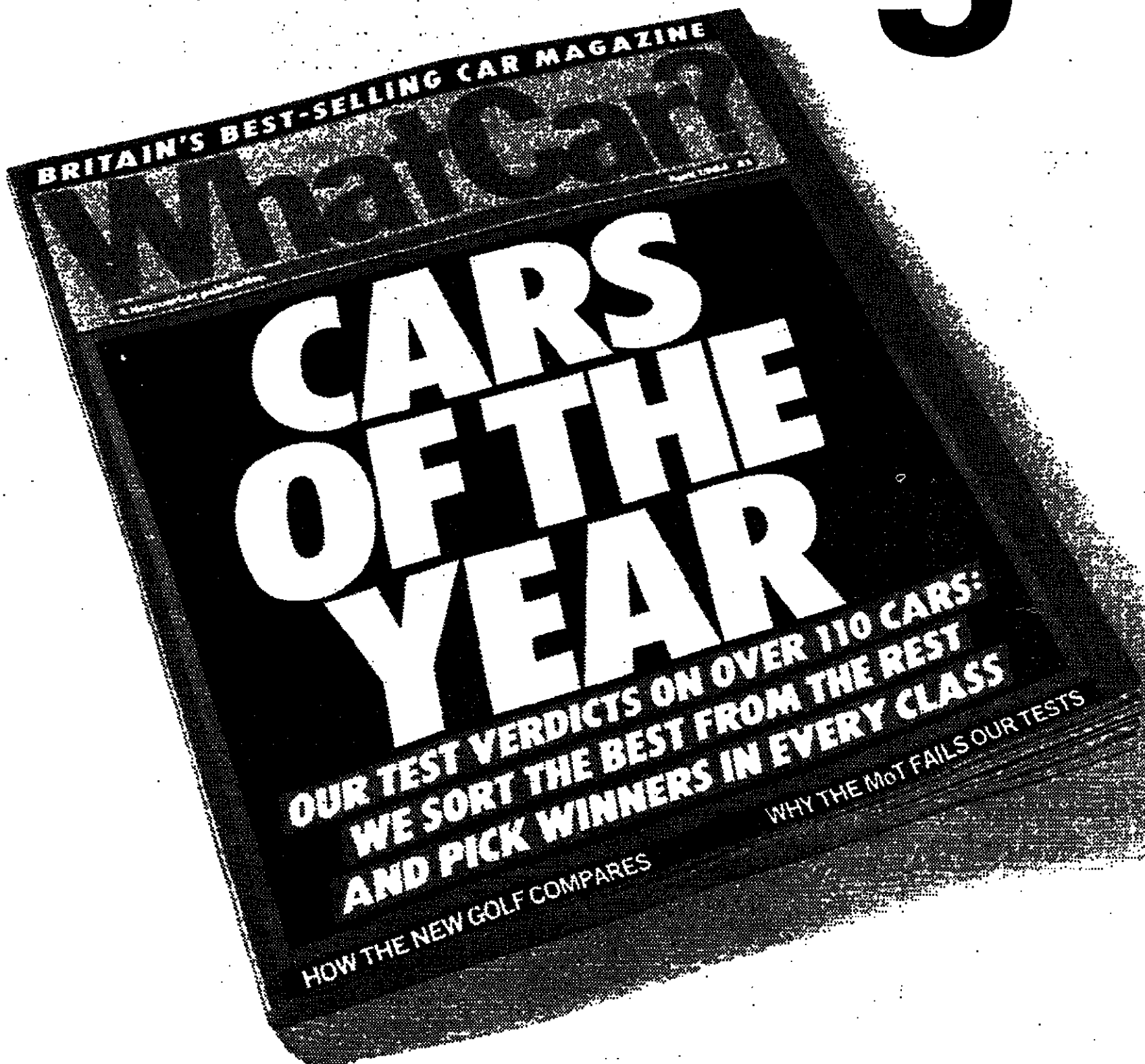
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Policeman goes free after killing black S Africa leader

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A white policeman who shot dead a black leader at a meeting to protest against government plans to uproot a rural settlement was acquitted yesterday of murder and acting illegally.

Mr Justice J. P. O. de Villiers said in the court at Volksrust in the south-eastern Transvaal that the dead man, Saul Mkhize, aged 48, "had been an arrogant, somewhat impolite, man with a strong personality".

He said Constable Johannes Nienaber, aged 21, who admitted opening fire with a 12-bore shotgun, but denied murder, had suffered a traumatic experience when his pistol was wrestled from him by an angry mob and aimed at his head, although it failed to go off.

He had been hit with knobkerries, stones and pummeled with fists. "It must also have been traumatic for the constable, knowing that his sidearm was somewhere in the crowd," the judge said.

The killing of Mr Mkhize, a year ago yesterday, in a schoolyard near the village of Driefontein, from which the Government was planning to evict a community of 5,000 blacks, focused international attention on the policy of forced removals designed to eliminate so-called "black spots" in designated white areas.

The judge, who sat with two assessors, heard that constable Nienaber and a black policeman

arrived at the rally, addressed by Mr Mkhize, and ordered him to break up the meeting which was "illegal".

State witnesses said the policeman donned a gas mask, threw two tear-gas canisters in the crowd and punched Mr Mkhize in the face. When the crowd started advancing on constable Nienaber with knobkerries, Mr Mkhize called to them not to attack him, the witnesses said.

The policeman backed out of the school yard in Land-Rover and, from a distance of about 30 yards, fired twice with the shotgun. The second shot hit Mr Mkhize in the chest.

Constable Nienaber had testified that he had bruises on his body, his wrists were swollen and his gas mask dented in the attack. The fact that there were no marks left did not mean he had not been hit, the judge said.

There was not one aspect of Constable Nienaber's evidence with which the court could say it was not impressed, the judge added.

Blacks from the Driefontein settlement filed quietly from the court after the verdict, while Constable Nienaber, grinning broadly, lit a cigarette as he was congratulated enthusiastically by fellow policemen.

Earlier, the judge had visited the settlement, which he described as a lovely piece of ground.

Canada tries to juggle polls, Pope and Queen

From John Best, Ottawa

Politics, religion and royalty appear to be headed for a collision of some sort in Canada this summer and nobody seems to be in a position to head it off.

The Queen is due to pay a two-week visit in July and the Pope a one-and-a-half-week visit in mid-September. Between avid monarchists and devout Catholics, the overwhelming majority of Canadians find immense pleasure in anticipating these two events.

The trouble is that this summer is also a prime time for a federal general election, and neither the Queen nor the Pope wants to be here in the midst of an election campaign, if it can be helped.

There are too many ways in which, indirectly perhaps and unwittingly, they might be dragged into the political fray.

The new leader of the Liberal Party - to be chosen on June 16 to succeed Mr Pierre Trudeau - automatically succeeds to Mr Trudeau's position of Prime Minister. He would like to be able to dance more or less straight from the leadership convention into an election,

taking advantage of the huge wave of publicity in which he will be awash during and immediately after the convention. A vote has to be held in the next year, anyway.

Given the 50-day minimum campaign duration in Canada, there is no way the new Prime Minister could call a summer vote without enveloping either the royal tour or the papal tour. Yet to wait would mean an election in November or beyond - really, too late in the season for election campaigns in Canada.

Mr Serge Joyal, the Secretary of State in Mr Trudeau's Cabinet, intrepidly suggested the other day that the way out of this very serious dilemma would be to postpone the royal and papal visits.

This drew an immediate challenge to the Government from a Conservative Opposition front-bencher, Mr John Crosbie: "Go ahead and rudely interrupt the Queen's visit, or rudely interrupt the Pope's visit. And then let's see what the people of Canada think about it."



Show of hands: The three Democratic nomination contenders, Mr Walter Mondale (left), the Rev Jesse Jackson and Senator Gary Hart, during their televised debate in New York on Sunday.

EEC rebate system accepted

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

Finance Ministers of the EEC got down to some hypothetical arithmetic in Luxembourg yesterday, to try to work out how much rebate Britain could expect from the Community according to the latest mechanism devised to sort out the problem.

The system proved so flexible that, according to sample figures provided by the Commission, Britain would be left paying anything from £470m to nothing. It all depended on which reference figures were inserted into the equation.

The importance was, however, that they all accepted the system as the basis for further negotiation. M Jacques Delors, the French minister presiding, will be reporting back on this to M Claude Cheysson, who will be chairing the Foreign Council next week in Luxembourg.

The point is that tempers have now cooled sufficiently for negotiations to resume. After last week's had tempered Foreign Council in Brussels, M Cheysson said that all concessions had been withdrawn and everything would have to start again at the beginning.

The Finance Ministers' discussion yesterday showed that this was not the case. Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said, "I think the discussion was very amicable. There was no question of ganging up of any kind or of Britain being isolated."

Shultz denies US has changed Lebanon goals despite pullout

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

American policy objectives remain unchanged in Lebanon despite last week's decision to end American participation in the multi-national force and withdraw US ships and Marines stationed off the Lebanese coast.

Senior Administration officials have emphasized that although the US recognizes it can no longer have any military influence on the situation in Lebanon, it still hopes to achieve a withdrawal of all foreign forces and the restoration of the Lebanese Government's authority throughout the country by diplomatic means.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, indicated in an interview with *The Times* last week that the US intended to remain diplomatically active in the region when he said, "We will stay engaged." He made it clear the US would give whatever help it could to

attempts being made by the warring factions in Lebanon to resolve their differences.

In an American television interview on Sunday he repeated that American objectives in the region were "just the same although we will have to change our tactics".

Mr Shultz said the original pullback of the Marines from their positions around Beirut to naval vessels offshore was a very sensible move.

However, he conceded that the decision to end completely the US role in the multinational force had harmed American credibility in the region.

Mr Shultz, who had voiced strong opposition in Cabinet meetings to a withdrawal of the US military presence in Lebanon, said: "There is a lack of credibility in pulling the forces out... and we have suffered a lot for that in the Middle East."

When the troops were first removed from Beirut to US ships off the Lebanese coast, the Administration said they were being redeployed offshore and not withdrawn. Friday's decision to remove the naval task force has shown that the redeployment was in fact the first stage of a tactical withdrawal.

● LONDON: The Foreign Office yesterday asserted its policy of impartiality between Iran and Iraq in their war, and said that Britain did not supply lethal equipment to either side (Rodney Cowton writes).

It was reacting by Mr Shultz's comment that it was "unhelpful" that Britain was supplying military spare parts to Iran.

While denying that Britain supplied lethal equipment to either nation, the Foreign Office confirmed that a number of Iranians were receiving training on a Swiss-made anti-aircraft fire control systems in Britain.

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New York Mondale's biggest challenge

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The great New York primary race, a crucial round in the struggle for the Democratic presidential nomination, will be decided today. For former Vice-President Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart the high stakes make this the day for tightly crossed fingers.

The stakes are higher for Mr Mondale. Electors will choose 252 of the states 285 delegates to the national convention, the largest prize in any primary so far, and the second largest number of delegates after California.

The New York state primary is a vital test of Mr Mondale's organizational power and of his campaign pitch promoting him as the Democrat of experience, the man of substance running against a Johnny-come-lately.

No less for Mr Hart, New York is a big prize, a test of his image as the man of new ideas, the future versus the past.

At this stage of the marathon a defeat for Mr Mondale would be devastating. Opinion polls show him in the lead 11 percentage points ahead of Mr Hart, according to an ABC News - Washington Post survey.

But Senator Hart's managers say that their own soundings reveal that the gap between the two is narrowing.

Mr Mondale ought to win, given his record, frequently says "Don't forget me". Mr Jackson has constantly emphasized his importance in mobilizing the black vote, which in New York state amounts to about a sixth of the registered Democratic electorate.

All the candidates are paying close attention to racial and religious interests. Ethnic considerations are a strong part of the spice and volatility of New York politics; and Mr Hart, for example, gulped down some fettuccini to please Italians before going off on a run in Manhattan to boost his image as a fit and youngish man.

Meanwhile, Senator Hart and Mr Mondale carry on an acrimonious war in their television commercials and personal confrontations on television. They have been glaring at each other in television studios, wrangling over peripheral matters like a grumpy married couple at the breakfast table.

All three candidates were up early yesterday for a last hectic day of campaigning. After New York the next big test is the Pennsylvania primary on April 24, where 195 delegates are at stake. This, too, will be another important test of the Mondale machine.

Race laws stop player living with his wife

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A Peruvian World Cup footballer who came to play in South Africa this year has threatened to leave because the country's race laws prevent him from living in the same house as his wife, the *Rand Daily Mail* reported.

Augusto Palacios has been told he cannot live with his white wife because he would be classified as Coloured or black. "I cannot believe such crude race discrimination is taking place in the year 1984," he said. "I've seen nothing quite as extraordinary as this callous lumping of human beings into categories because of the colour of their skin."

OAS man drew two salaries

Washington - Señor Alejandro Orfila, who ended his nine-year tenure as Secretary-General of the Organization of American States on Saturday had promised to return \$22,000 (about £15,000) to the OAS - his salary for the first three months of this year.

He "profoundly regretted" drawing his OAS salary while also receiving \$25,000 a month from a public relations firm that now employs him.

New York Post strike settled

New York (Reuters, AP) - A one-day strike by 400 journalists and administrative staff at the *New York Post* ended when the Newspaper Guild and the management agreed to a new contract, providing for a \$110 (£73) weekly salary increase over three years.

Printers and drivers had refused to cross journalists' picket lines at the newspaper, owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch.

Guatemala plea

The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, based for security reasons in Mexico City, is launching a worldwide campaign to publicize and protest against disappearances in Guatemala. The commission has documented more than 1,000 cases in the past three years, and has evidence of more than 35,000 cases in 25 years of military rule.

Chile blackout

Santiago (AP) - Bomb explosions knocked down at least three electricity towers, blacking out Santiago and a 700-mile stretch of central Chile. Left-wing guerrillas claimed responsibility.

Soldiers die

Two British soldiers killed when their taxi plunged 30ft from a bridge into a river bank in Cyprus were named as David Conn, aged 21, of Ayrshire, and Paul Talman, aged 26, of Derbyshire, both serving with the Scots Guards. Five Cypriots died in the accident.

Loan denial

Rome (AP) - The office of the Archbishop Paul Marcinkus dismissed a "request" reports that a 50 billion lire loan (then worth £56m) by the Vatican Bank he heads might be improper.

Holiday gift

Luxembourg - A summer holiday present for travellers in the EEC was agreed by Community Finance Ministers here. They increased the value of goods which can be carried tax-free across Community borders by one-third to £170 for each traveller from July 1. Rules covering alcohol and tobacco are unchanged.

Tax abolished

Vienna - Hungary is to abolish its 20 per cent tax on imports from hard-currency countries. This will not exempt western goods from import duties, but it will enable Hungary to import more industrial spare parts from the West.

One-man Banda

Lilongwe (Reuters) - President Kamuzu Banda of Malawi dissolved his 12 member Cabinet and took over all the posts himself. No reason was given.

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LEBANANESE ARMY COLLAPSING IN BEIRUT; Shultz Hints at Shift on Peace Force

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Chasing an elusive ideal

Zia spins his political web

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, has resumed the public speaking tour he suspended amid the Sind disturbances last year. The move has given the country an election-year atmosphere, with no polling date or campaign rules.

A number of his ministers have undertaken similar campaigns recently, though for the rest of the nation the use of public platforms is banned under martial law. All in all, 1984 could prove a decisive year in Pakistani politics.

Repeated verbose statements by General Zia about giving the nation what he describes as Islamic democracy in the next 12 months have left many political observers believing that far from planning a fundamental transfer of power he is embarking on the final phase of providing a constitutional base for his military rule, now nearly seven years old.

In elaborate statements of his vision of an Islamic system, General Zia has said little in precise terms about how the martial law regime would shift power to those whom it considers to be qualified popular representatives. Among both his opponents and col-

laborers, many seriously doubt that he intends to relinquish the seat of power.

While General Zia, who has twice cancelled firm election dates, speaks of elections and transfer of power, he has made clear that his concept of elections, democracy and parliament differs from the country's experience of them.

His only indications of intent are broad and negative in the sense that they aim at ruling out the unquestioned right of an adult citizen to participate in elections. He has also decided Western concepts of an elected assembly or parliament to rule the country.

In his latest interview, General Zia, told the Karachi weekly *Takbir* that if the opposition pushes him too hard for elections on a party basis he may abandon any political poll and instead seek a mandate directly from the people in a referendum. His Council of Advisers has also remained imprecise on the proposed political system and how it will be established. Three different commissions set up by General Zia have recommended systems that contradict each other.

However, one firm feature of the Zia system, according to the leader's own statements, will be

to maintain the dominant position of the armed forces, with a National Security Council as super-watchdog - apparently over and elected or semi-elected House of Representatives and government.

There is little doubt that the recent big reshuffle in the military hierarchy is related to General Zia's undisclosed political plans.

Two of the most senior generals, who have been with General Zia since his 1977 coup, have been retired, and trusted colleagues have filled some key military posts.

● Pakistan has issued a strong denial of Indian allegations that China last year exploded a nuclear device on behalf of Pakistan. A senior Indian External Affairs official said in Delhi last week that a Pakistan-made bomb was tested ten months ago in north-west China.

Pakistan has repeatedly said that it has no intention of producing or acquiring nuclear weapons. However, the US Senate foreign relations committee last week voted to make continued American aid to the country dependent on the Reagan Administration certifying to Congress that Pakistan has no nuclear arms.

£22m Flexiport cuts Falklands storage costs

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A £22m floating dock built during the past three months is entering full operation on schedule in the Falkland Islands. It will substantially reduce the cost of maintaining the garrison in the islands.

Because of inadequate port and storage facilities much of the stores for the 4,500-man garrison have had to be kept expensively on board ships at anchor in the harbour.

For more than a year the 10,000 tons deadweight ship, *Tor Caledonia*, has been lying in the harbour as a floating store holding military equipment.

Two other refrigerated ships, each of nearly 10,000 tons deadweight, the *Avelon Star*

and the *Andalucia Star*, have operated a roughly two-monthly rotation as ration ships, taking it in turns to lie in Port Stanley harbour for weeks while their stores were gradually consumed.

All three ships will be able to

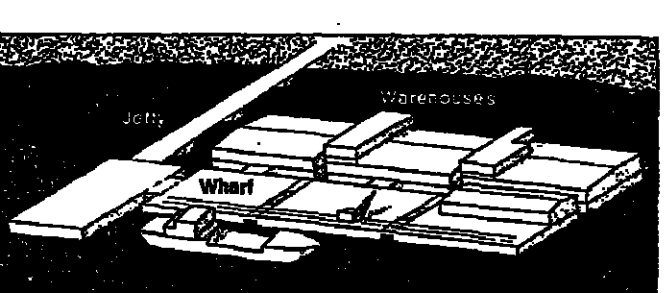
be released by the Ministry of Defence and returned to normal trade. Instead of a ration ship arriving every seven or eight weeks, smaller ships will be used, probably arriving twice a month.

The new floating facility, or

Flexiport as it is called, has been built by ITM Offshore of Middlesbrough. It consists of six large barges moored to piles and linked to the shore by a 190-metre jetty. The barges provide a workable quay of 295 metres and about 9,000 square metres of warehousing.

The barges were built at Harland and Wolff, and carried out to the Falklands on board two heavy-lift ships. To off-load them the ships were submerged and the barges floated off, the ships then being pumped dry again.

The Flexiport is believed to be the first of its kind in the world. It is designed to be capable of being transported to other sites. The United States Army is believed to be showing interest in the system.



Layout of the floating dock at Port Stanley.

Workers unite to strike against Mitterrand volte-face on steel jobs

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Government's restructuring plans for the steel industry, involving the loss of up to 25,000 jobs, has caused an explosion of anger and violence, leading to the resignation of three MPs and a senator from the Socialist group in Parliament. It has also brought the strained communist-Socialist coalition nearer to breaking point.

In a rare display of unity, a general strike has been called by all the unions tomorrow throughout Lorraine, the worst-hit area, which was the scene of violent clashes between demonstrators and police over the weekend. Lorraine, an area of high unemployment, is expected to suffer 15,000 job losses as a result of the Government plans.

Feelings of deception, betrayal and bitterness are running particularly high there because it was at the Longwy steel works in Lorraine that President Mitterrand promised only two and a half years ago that the publicly-owned industries, including steel, would be "the spearhead of industrial renovation and the reconquest of the domestic market and, therefore, of the battle for jobs".

After commiserating with the "injustices" suffered by the steel workers under the previous government, which cut 40,000 steel jobs between 1977 and 1981, Mitterrand said: "To those of you who were among

the foremost victims of an unjust society, I have come to say that you must now be at the forefront of the reconstruction of our economy."

President Mitterrand will have a chance to explain the Government's volte-face at his press conference at the Elysée Palace tomorrow afternoon. It is the first he has given since 1982, and only the third since he came to power nearly three years ago.

He is expected to cover the whole range of his policies at a time when the Government has never been under greater attack, both from inside and outside its ranks.

Some are wondering, indeed, whether it can still properly be called socialist in view of its unbending pursuit of economic austerity, its recent espousal of tough industrial reconstruction plans, involving the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, the virtual total abandonment of plans to integrate private, predominantly Catholic, schools into the state system, and a foreign and defence policy which has won the wholehearted approval of President Reagan.

Three MPs and one senator from the Moselle Department in Lorraine, all belonging to the Mitterrand faction within the Socialist Party, have resigned from the Socialist group in Parliament in protest over the Government steel plan. Two more Socialist MPs

from the area have announced that they will not vote for the Industry Bill if the plan remains unchanged, and the First Secretary from the local Socialist Federation has resigned his seat on the National Executive Committee of the party.

The spontaneous violence, which shook the steel centres over the weekend, leaving a trail of destruction and several injured, broke out again yesterday with an attack on the Socialist Party offices in Metz by a masked gang of about 50 demonstrators wielding iron bars and pick-axe handles. A secretary was taken to hospital after being hit over the head through a broken window.

The Communist-led CGT union has condemned the violence, saying that it did nothing to further the workers' cause. That stance indicates growing concern over the unions' inability to control their rank-and-file rather than any tacit approval of Government policies.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, has bitterly attacked the steel plan, describing it as a tragic error and expressing sympathy for the anger and exasperation of the workers. At the same time, he went out of his way to insist again that the Communist Party had no intention of leaving the Government and that it stood by its 1981 pact with the Socialists.



Death in the family: Marvin Gaye performing in New York in 1983 and his father in the back seat of a police car on Sunday night.

Father accused over Marvin Gaye death

From Ivar Davis, Los Angeles

The father of the soul singer, Marvin Gaye, is expected to be charged today for the murder of his famous son who would have celebrated his forty-fifth birthday today.

Gaye, whose smooth delivery of such hits as *I Heard it Through the Grapevine* gave him a worldwide audience, was shot dead at the Los Angeles home he shared with his parents. Police say his father, aged 71, a retired clergyman, got into an argument with his son

over insurance and armed himself with a pistol. He then shot his son in the son's bedroom.

The Los Angeles music industry expressed shock and sadness at Gaye's death.

He dominated the soul scene in the Sixties, overcame a decline in his career fortunes in the Seventies and spent the end of that decade in self-imposed European exile.

Obituary, page 16

Curfew in Amritsar after killing

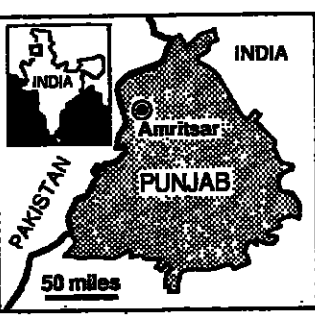
Delhi (Reuters) - The Sikh holy city of Amritsar was put under curfew yesterday and heavily-armed police patrolled the streets after rioters burnt shops and vehicles in protest at the murder of a leading Punjab politician.

Crowds went on the rampage near the hospital where Harbaj Lal Khanna, local leader of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, died after being shot by three men. His bodyguard was also killed.

Security forces in neighbouring Haryana state were alerted to prevent Sikh-Hindu violence spreading.

The shooting followed a grenade attack which killed five people and wounded 30 on Sunday night at a religious meeting of Wirankaris.

The BJP had strongly criticized an offer by Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to Sikh leaders to amend the Indian constitution in an attempt to defuse communal tensions.



Meanwhile, Maazel is expected to continue his obligations as director until 1986. Then, he told journalists, he will happily pack his bags and leave, joining a distinguished line of conductors stretching back through Karl Boehm and Herbert von Karajan to Gustav Mahler, all of whom abandoned the directorship of this notoriously temperamental house earlier than expected.

Vienna relies on Abbado's magic wand

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

After a weekend of intense negotiations, Claudio Abbado was designated yesterday as musical director of the Vienna State Opera from 1987.

The decision to appoint Abbado, enjoying ecstatic acclaim at the State Opera for his conducting of a new production of *Simon Boccanegra*, seems to have been partly inspired by news last week that from 1986 he would no longer be principal conductor at La Scala.

But the creation of the new post of musical director to work with the artistic director is also believed to be an attempt to revive the Vienna house's ailing fortunes. The last few years, culminating in Lorin Maazel's controversial directorship, have seen a series of misfortunes



Claudio Abbado: Hoping to revive ailing fortunes.

descended on this once illustrious house.

Productions had to be scrapped at the last moment, singers lost their nerve or collapsed at opening nights.

A fortnight ago, it was announced that Maazel's contract would not be renewed after 1986 and that his successor would be the relatively unknown director of the Zurich Opera, Dr Helmut Dress.

While the appointment of this proven administrator was generally favourably received, fears were aired that Dr Dress's passion for early music would force the members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra to revert to such original instruments as hunting horns and baroque bassoons.

Rumours circulated that the sensual delights for an orchestral musician of Strauss and Puccini would be replaced by a more intellectual diet of Gluck and Rameau. But the news of Abbado's appointment as musical director seems to have allayed these fears.

With the efficient Dr Dress at the helm of the opera's administration and the more fiery Abbado conducting at least five months of the year in Vienna, it is hoped that the house will enjoy a calmer future and recover much of its lost prestige.

US inquiry into running of Unesco opens

Paris (Reuters) - Four US investigators yesterday began looking into allegations of financial mismanagement and personnel malpractice at Unesco.

The Director-General, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, who has come under fire from some Western countries because of his methods, will seek what will in effect be a vote of confidence when the 45-member Unesco board meets on May 9, Western diplomats said.

Britain will hand over a formal letter to Mr M'Bow today calling on Unesco to concentrate more on what it terms worthwhile projects such as teacher training and less on such contentious projects as a new world information order.

Foreign policy and polls

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

One of the curiosities of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination is the part being played by foreign policy. It is often said that American politics are so introspective that they allow no place for international considerations, and it is true that the way in which the nominating process has evolved in recent years has put a premium on more ephemeral factors.

The dominance of primary elections in determining who will be the candidate, and the smaller role that is consequently played by party leaders, has meant that a pleasing smile and a few apt words on television are worth more than the careful statement of a reasoned case.

But both in Illinois, and now again in New York, Mr Mondale, the former Vice-President, and Senator Hart have responded to invitations to make a full presentation of their foreign policy positions.

Their differences on Central America and on the Middle East have become big issues in the contest. Their disagreements on Europe and the argument as to which of them would give greater confidence to the allies have also featured in the public debate, even though it is hard to believe that many votes will turn on these questions.

Senator Hart has been accused of isolationist tendencies. That is, I believe, unfair. Nobody could ask for a more ringing declaration of support than he gave in his speech to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Bargaining counter

"Our friends and allies need to know that we will permit no interference with their security, that we are willing to send our forces and risk our cities if theirs are in danger." His support for Israel is not in doubt. His approach to Central America is sympathetic.

Yet, without inclining either to isolationism or to pacifism, Senator Hart would place less reliance on American military power in conducting foreign policy. He has called for the withdrawal of all US forces from Central America, and in New York on Friday, he said: "The right policy for Central America is peace and stability must be the elevation of the standard of living, not military solutions."

In Europe he wants America's allies to take "a greater share of the land defence of the Continent". If military action were required to preserve Western access to oil from the Persian Gulf, he

would leave that to the European allies, on the ground that it is Europe and Japan, not the U.S., which depends on those supplies.

On all these issues Mr Mondale inspires greater confidence. He would use the withdrawal of US forces from Central America as a bargaining counter with Nicaragua, rather than simply withdrawing them unilaterally. He would not reduce US troop commitments in Europe and would not regard the preservation of European oil supplies from the Middle East as a purely European interest.

Mr Mondale shows a greater awareness of the complexities of power, a wiser mistrust of simple answers in international affairs. He knows the danger for a man who hopes to be president of offering specific answers to hypothetical questions.

But there are two issues on which he has failed to keep these standards. He has committed himself to moving the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, where only Costa Rica has its embassy now.

This would be a symbolic gesture which would appeal to the Jewish community in America rather than contribute to the security of Israel. Senator Hart, who is no less eager to win the Jewish vote, now supports the move. But earlier he had said he would do so only after negotiations with other countries in the area.

The best to be said for Mr Mondale on this point is that having taken a questionable decision he has stuck to it. Senator Hart took a wiser position, but has not stuck to it.

More disturbing to European eyes is Mr Mondale's support for trade protection, even though he claims this would be a temporary expedient only. Senator Hart is unequivocally opposed to protection.

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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

A priceless parade of props

There is an intriguing story behind the fabulous fin de siècle jewelry that Ornella Muti wears in *Un Amour de Swann*.

The delicate pearl and jet chokers, the baroque bracelets, sparkling suites and pale pearls worn both by the demi-mondaine Odette and by the aristocratic Duchesse de Guermantes (Fanny Ardant) are, in fact, the real thing.

The secret is revealed when Jeremy Irons as Swann woos Odette (below) with a pearl sautoir in a familiar red and gilded leather box.



Cartier produced all the jewels from their own historic collection, working with Yvonne Sassinet de Nesle, who designed the costumes in authentic and intricate period detail. The décolleté necklines (all too revealingly low for some Proust fans) are decorated by Cartier's most priceless pieces, in particular the jewelled "dog collars" that look so fashionably modern.

Gilberte Gautier, the architect of Cartier and author of its history, tells me that the jewelry had to be protected by two security guards permanently on set during the filming.

The Japanese made a breathtaking sweep of the honours in last week's Diamonds-International Awards. A staggering 14 out of the 24 worldwide winners were Japanese designers who did seem to have produced the most exciting pieces.

A necklace shaped as a butterfly, with the tips of the wings encircling the neck and using 32 carats of diamonds set in gold, was made by Hirose Abe. Movable pavé diamond leaves that twist round a central ivory flower form as the wearer chooses was the equally original brooch by Tomoko Nakagawa.



A hair ornament by Yumiko Kikuchi (above) was inspired by traditional Japanese lacquer work and uses 27 carats of baguette diamonds to criss-cross the red lacquer circle. It can also be worn as a bangle.

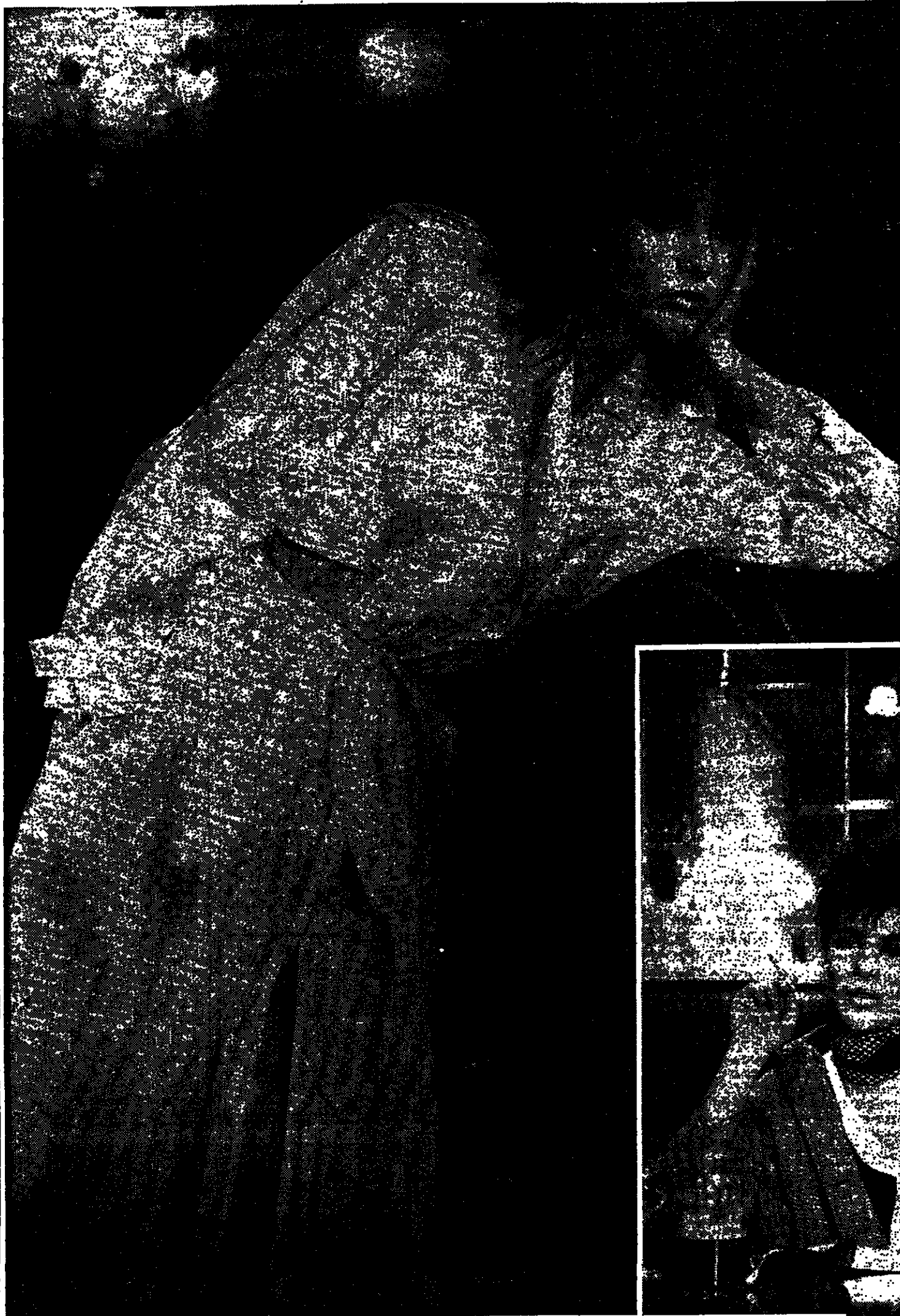
A steely black bangle with abstract waves of yellow gold and ripples of diamonds was designed by Joyce Tipler, the only British winner in the De Beers Awards, which have just celebrated their thirtieth anniversary.

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The French for trench

The English raincoat is a wholesome thing, designed for clean country rain, smelling of horses, fresh fields and wet leaves.

The French for trench is Juliette Greco in a smoky Left-Bank bar in a shapely, tight-belted coat reeking of stale Gauloises and urban chic.

The common market in rainfall seems to have blown the city trench across the Channel. The mac of the spring is as light as a gusty April day, made of nylon but a far horizon away from the original pack-away garment.

The town trench is tailored, with padded shoulders and often with the military details of cape bodice and epaulettes that gave the war-time trench its name. It comes up generously sized with a very long full skirt cinched in at the waist. The other favoured raincoat shape of the season is seven-eighths, straight-backed and nearer to a rain jacket.

Genuine sailing or cycling capes and protective jackets have been taken up as street style. From these "hazard-warning" sports clothes have come the dazzling fluorescent colours that are now high fashion: storm cone yellow, lime green and orange.

Trenches come, too, in shiny cire black or white, which are more in tune with city style than the traditional riding mac beige.

Aquascutum took a stock count of the number of female customers for their big man's trench in lightweight fabric -

and installed it in their newly refurbished rainwear department upstairs. It is big, bold, made in lined cotton polyester and costs £189.

Anne-Marie Beretta of Paris is the star of Harrods' rainwear department, where she shows her waterproof wares for Ramonport along-side the Paris-based Norbert-Nel. They are both making the big shoulder shape in lightweight cire and buyer Anne Pitcher believes that her customers are now turning to the fashion macs as their Spring coats.

A good range of waterproof clothing is made by Jan and John Jermain, who are keen sailors who started in business by making protective garments for themselves and their three children. Cheery three quarter length anoraks in scarlet, royal blue or green come also in extra proofed "offshore" weights and in a featherlight 2oz nylon that packs away in a pocket. Personal shoppers can go to Three Jay and Co, 6 The Precinct, High Road, Bromley, Kent, SE26 5JH. For free mail order brochure with samples, send large A4 sac.

Milletts have a yellow hazard cycling cape for just £2.99, a sharp contrast in price with the high style designer macs that cost as much as a wool coat.

But fashion macs are not just for the rain. They are worn too as part of an outfit - belted over skinny ski pants or a slim leather skirt, used as a tunic, blouse or top as an accessory to an outfit. The fluorescent colours even beam out at night.



Make-up by Ruth Sheldon for ORLANE, using their Couleurs Surréalistes. Hair by Peter Forrester for Daniel Galvin Colour Salon. Fashion assistant: Christine Paine. Photographs by NICK BRIGGS.



THE ANSWER YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...

PROBLEM:

The "smile" lines around my eyes and mouth are becoming very noticeable. Can I do anything to reduce them?

FASHFLASH

The most glamorous end to a month of fashion shows came last week at the Italian Embassy in London, where the vivacious Roman designer, Laura Biagiotti, showed her collection.

Princess Margaret, elegant in a jet black organza evening dress, was the guest of honour at the evening reception given by the Italian Ambassador and Signora Cagiali.

As I watched Laura Biagiotti's sensuous cashmeres in quiet milky colours, her creamy spring linens and spicier autumn shades set against the superb tapestries and rococo mirrors, I realized that many of the best collections I have seen would look better still shown in the traditional salon. The circus tents and theatrical productions that have turned the international fashion shows into giant spectacles, often work against the more refined clothes.

Laura Biagiotti, like many women designers, makes clothes that she knows women like to wear. (Her personal appearance the next day at Match Club in Knightsbridge attracted an eager gathering of her followers). Next year, she will be part of an exhibition

in Washington, celebrating women's achievement.

Another famous female designer, Zandra Rhodes, was a guest at the Italian evening (and dazzling in her own richly beaded ruby red chiton with her pink and orange hair). She tells me that she, too, is beginning to doubt the value of the fashion spectacular - even though she was one of the first designers to show fashion as theatre, with dancers and sets, 15 years ago.

My abiding memory of the 63 fashion shows I have seen over the last month has been of the crowds, the heat, the glare of the lights, the blare of the music - and very little of lasting interest about the clothes.

Garments that make a strong statement on the catwalk (but are never actually made) are a waste of the designer's money and the fashion expert's time. In fact, buyers tell me increasingly that they buy from a collection before the show.

Fashion has moved on since the days of small salon shows and little gilt chairs. But the ready-to-wear shows have grown too big, too brash and too numerous for the creative talent around.

Centre left: The bold French trench in brilliant white crinkled acetate £165, also khaki, black; sizes 8-14, by Norbert-Nel from Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1. Sunny yellow cotton shirt £26.50, and slim skirt from Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road SW3.

Above: Waxed orange cotton, big branchcoat with swingy skirt, £49.95, also blue, black cire, by Strawberry Studio from Charlie, Muswell Hill, Coccaine, Ealing, mail order from Zeebond, 78b Chiltern Street W1, p&p £1.50. Orange shirt £9.99, cotton ski pants £12.99, fluorescent belt £2.99, earrings £1.50, all from Miss Selfridge, Duke Street W1, and branches.

Left: Fine dogtooth check three-quarter length raincoat, £25, black/white by Marella from Fenwick, New Bond Street W1, p&p £1.50. White rib knit vest £6.99, Miss Selfridge branches. Black/orange cotton cardigan, £46 by Gregory Davis from Whistles, Joseph Hyper Hyper. Silk dogtooth scarf £29.95 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge SW1. Rubber hoop earrings £10.95, Fenwick. Flipper watch £34, coloured straps £4.50, from Reiss, King's Road SW3, Strangeways, Covent Garden. Sunglasses on table from Xavier Danaud, St Christopher's Place W1.

Below left: Fluorescent green mac dress with detachable poppers £54.99, also shocking pink, from Warehouse, 76 Brompton Road SW3 and branches. Lime shot linen safari dress, £68, also rose, gold, by Lumière from Way In, Harrods; Numbers, Welbeck Street W1; Chivalry, Horsforth, Leeds. Textured leather belt £29.95, Harvey Nichols. Earrings £1.99, Miss Selfridge. Watch by Flipper.

Angela Gore



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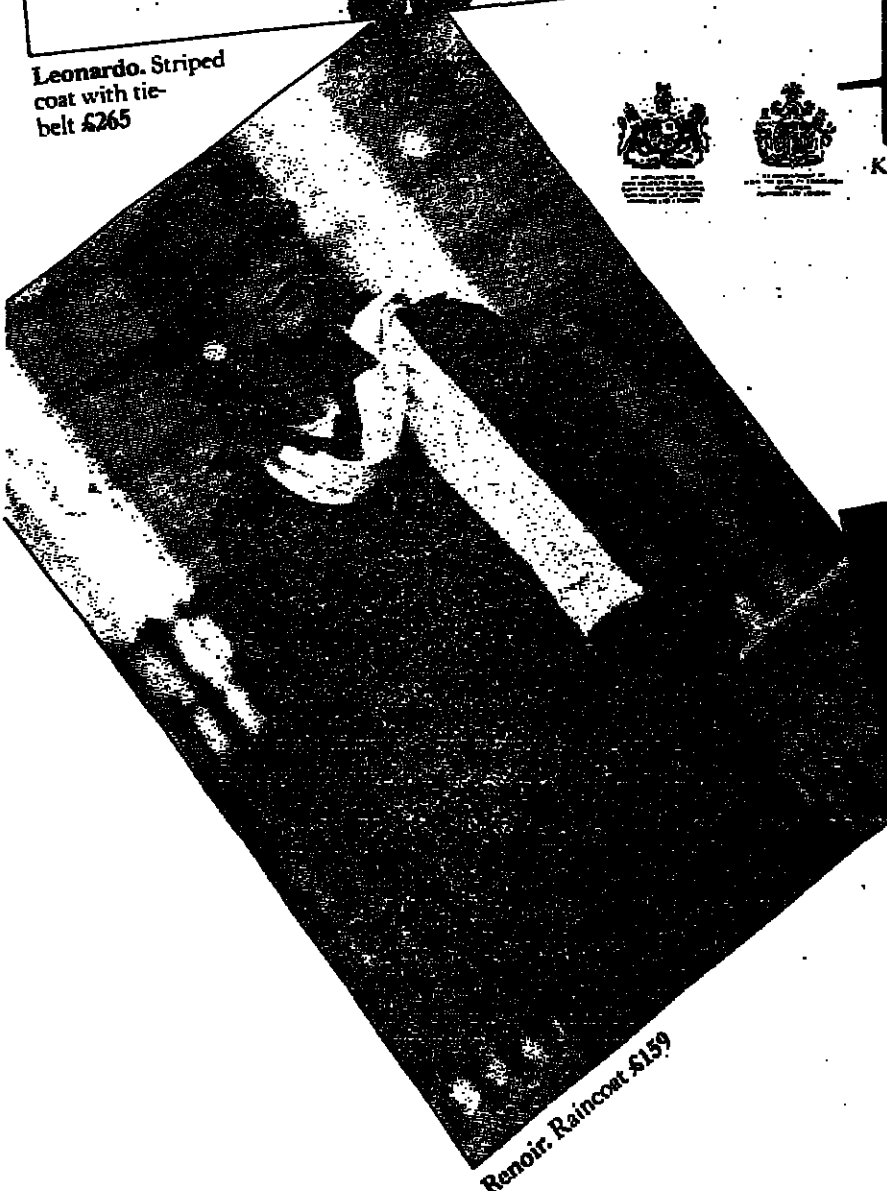
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SPECTRUM

Vivid drama-ballets created by the young Kenneth MacMillan shocked Covent Garden audiences in the 1960s who had grown used to the cooler classicism of Frederick Ashton. Lynn Seymour raises the curtain on how she learnt to interpret the Royal Ballet's two great post-war choreographers.

Two-step at the Garden

Since that November day when I auditioned for him in Vancouver, I had only glimpsed Frederick Ashton fleetingly around the Royal Ballet School or at Covent Garden. On the autumn tour of 1961 he visited the company and asked me to dinner. Ashton represented the essence of sophistication and I was a boydenish oddity. He had met Gertrude Stein, who declared that he was a genius. He knew the Royal Family. He was intimate friends with Margot Fonteyn, Robert Helpmann and Cecil Beaton. Ashton's world was that of silken drawing room, mine a spartan bed-sit, at best.

He was taking an old ballet called *The Two Pigeons*, first produced at the Paris Opera in the nineteenth century, and restoring it to life with his own choreography. The Ashton version of another French oldie, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, had just been hailed as a "pure classic" and is considered the brightest gem in Ashton's choreographic crown. *The Two Pigeons* would be especially created for the touring company and he wanted me to play the heroine - an adoring artist's model whose lover strays from their nest with a flashy gypsy girl but who contritely flies home again.

Two new ballets in one season? I was struck dumb. Here was the chance of a lifetime. I had danced two big ballerina roles in London, Giselle and Odette-Odile, and was creating my third for Kenneth. Now, Frederick Ashton, whose ballets were usually created for Margot Fonteyn, warned that he expected me to start rehearsing his "little love-bird" as soon as *The Invitation* bowed in London. He had been highly impressed, he said, by the warm lyricism of my movements, which were precisely what he wanted to develop in his romantic St Valentine's Day ballet.

"Once we begin rehearsals, I'm going to bully you, so be prepared", he said. Then he glanced at my untouched plate and murmured in a fatherly manner, "Do you really like scrambled eggs for dinner?"

Ashton's *Cinderella* was added to my rep, as a sort of preparation for the *Two Pigeons*, and I made my Garden debut during the Christmas holidays as the chimney-sweep child who is transformed into a princess.

Ashton did not bully me at all. I have worked with choreographers outside the Royal who bully and shout and stomp and enjoy grinding dancers into dust. It is their favourite form of self-expression. Ashton was always sensitive and sweet. Kenneth MacMillan likes to work with dancers he knows and trusts because he gives

them room to experiment spontaneously with their own body movements. Ashton does the same to a lesser degree. But I have also worked with choreographers outside the Royal who fiercely rejected any artistic input from dancers. Kenneth is intrigued by idiosyncratic movement. Ashton prefers a cool purity. An Ashton ballet seems breathtaking in its lightness, but is killing to dance. The linking foot movements must fluently flow from one to another like unseen threads in yards and yards of the finest lace.

Ashton takes the personal qualities of his dancers and embroiders them with the sharpest needles on to lace. "He allows you to do your own characterization," Robert Helpmann has accurately said. "He doesn't attempt to impose anything. Choreographically, he insists quite naturally on his line and his method of doing things." And his line is classical. Every Ashton ballet, Robert observed, would have been ideal for Pavlova, and Fred, who saw Pavlova dance, admitted that he thought of her when creating a ballet. Fred loved my arched feet and choreographed some intricate Pavlova steps.

Not fully appreciating Ashton's distinct vision, and worried that the ballet was too sugary, I asked Kenneth to sneak into the balcony on the day of our stage call and give me a critique. "The girl is much too cute", I said. "I'm going to remove some of the sugar and make her more irreverent". "Get on with it your way", Kenneth said. "You always do."

Kenneth hid in the balcony, as his presence, unless invited by Ashton, was against protocol. I removed the girls' pouts and moues, substituting some impish mischief and wilful sexuality. Kenneth muttered later, "Mmmm, I like it". Fred, who misses nothing, caught the minuscule changes and expressed his hesitation, but everything fell into place at the premiere and I was rewarded with some laughs.

The ballet was not popular in America. Sol Hurok, the impresario, who prided himself on divining American taste, blamed the title. The small, sturdy showman exclaimed in his Brooklyn accent, "Two Pigeons - I can't sell it. You know what pigeons do to our park benches?"

Romeo and Juliet was the talk of the Garden in 1964, the unquestioned dazzler-to-come of London's winter season. Because Kenneth was creating the ballet on Christopher Gable and me - dancers he knew and trusted - he allowed us tremendous freedom. He



Seymour in *The Two Pigeons*

was familiar with every muscle in our bodies as well as our temperaments. He did not always "order" a specific step; he would suggest a shape, or visual image. "You're two smouldering creatures. You've just made love. It's Juliet's first experience. The image - the movement - is breathless, smouldering", he drawled, lounging in his sweat pants, and opening a second pack of cigarettes. Kenneth challenged us to interpret his thoughts, which is intellectually more bracing for a dancer than just concentrating on your feet.

He dared to shake out the balletic sop with dramatic story-ballets revealing dark corners of the heart. Kenneth was proud of saying that his dance incentive was picked up at the movies, watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and Gene Kelly. He saw Hollywood's classic musicals before he saw anyone dance on stage. He seldom discussed his early childhood on a chicken farm in Dunfermline, Scotland, but one confidant knew that his mother's early death left him emotionally wounded at a tender age. Kenneth was then living with his father and two older sisters in Great Yarmouth. His father died when he was in his teens.

Kenneth centred the ballet on Juliet. He saw her as a dominant, self-willed girl - the catalyst of the tragedy - who fell head over heels in love with a rather poetic youth. Romeo first sees Juliet at the Capulet's ball. The eye contact is a split second look away, look again flash, that recognition, that

Rehearsing *A Month in the Country* with Sir Frederick Ashton

knowledge of like souls, so rarely experienced in daily life. We were not ethereal lovers, miming impassioned vows, but two sexually alive teenagers whose passions were unbuttoned.

"Romeo is a nice, normal fellow", said Kenneth, "but it is Juliet's decisive personality and rebellious temperament that provokes the affair". Kenneth did not believe that, given all the obstacles, Romeo would have pursued the relationship if Juliet were a delicate little rosebud or a self-possessed young lady indulging in a forbidden adventure. The Juliet I developed was part child, part woman; impulsive and impractical, but always loving - a modern free spirit who knew exactly what she wanted and would risk all to get it.

"When I climb out of the window after our one night together - and it's incredible", said Christopher, "what are you thinking?"

I replied that I could not dream of living without him forever. "I would never be forced by family or convention to give you up or do something against my will." The words, somewhat altered, sounded frightfully familiar. That was Lynn Seymour talking - not Juliet Capulet.

We pondered Juliet's emotional state after Romeo had left her bed and she is agonizing over her future. "She is going to find a way out", said Kenneth, "but she's despairing." He inhaled wistfully on a cigarette. "I don't want her prancing around the bedroom."

"Could she just sit on the bed?" Kenneth asked provocatively.

It was an audacious idea that could be either theatrically suspenseful or disastrous. It required the careful building of a character whose desolation stirred the audience - without words, without movement. A scene of silent acting is not easy to sustain in a play by a dramatic actress. Would it work in a ballet? Dancers are not expected to sit alone onstage, hands in lap, during long passages of music.

"Hold on. What if the audience gets restless? That musical sequence goes on for an eternity. I already hear programmes rustling."

Kenneth crossed his legs and rubbed his chin. He stared at the floor. A shock of greying brown hair half-covered his forehead. He flushed with colour. "Let's try it."

Our creation of *Romeo* was filled with such outlandish invention. Ideas for gesture, movement and nuance spilled freely, hypnotically among the three of us. "When you've taken the sleeping potion, which you think just might be poison", continued Kenneth, as we considered the climax, "would you slowly fall asleep or, perhaps, expect to be ill?"

"I'd be frightened. I'd want to keep from throwing up."

Kenneth urged me to mime a violent upchucking cough and clap a hand over my mouth. He then devised a neocorporal pas de deux in the tomb when Romeo discovers the drugged Juliet, whom he assumes is dead. "You want your object of love to wake up, to dance with you", he told Christopher. "She can't be dead, that's too awful." He rehearsed Christopher

dragging me around the stage advising me, "Don't be afraid to look ugly. You're just a lump of dead meat." And the last duet was ugly and unromantic, with my legs rubbery, exposed. When I killed myself, after Romeo's death, I died with my legs askew.

But the death scene was crucial to Kenneth. His lovers were not united in death. They did not die in each other's arms. "Two beautiful young people are dead", he said. "Two beautiful lives have been totally wasted."

Early one autumn evening Christopher rang me up. "Have you talked to Kenneth?" he asked nervously.

"Not since rehearsal."

"I know he must be home. He's not answering his phone."

"What's the trouble, my darling?"

"Oh God - then you haven't seen the papers?"

He read: "Nureyev and Fonteyn, as Romeo and Juliet. That is the Royal Ballet's top attraction for the new season". Then, breathing heavily, "Shall I go on?"

"Does it mention... us?"

"No", he said very quietly.

Later I tried to reach Kenneth myself, using a variety of coded rings. I just wanted to hear Kenneth tell me that Christopher and I would *naturally* dance the premiere of *Romeo*. Kenneth was not answering. And then I understood. He was hiding out because something dreadful was going on and he could not bear to talk about it.

In December, the Garden announced the gala premiere of *Romeo* would be danced on February 9, 1965, by Margot and Rudi. Other dancers, stated the press release, including Lynn Seymour and Christopher Gable, would also portray the star-cross'd lovers.

The American choreographer Glen Tetley was in London then. He attended one of these midnight sessions and recalled that the mood was very tense. There was the unspoken hope, he felt, that Kenneth would withdraw the ballet. Kenneth worried that he had let us down. "It doesn't matter, Kenneth, it's a beautiful ballet. You haven't let us down. Just wait till the second partners go on", I said.

The *Romeo* cast-list and sequence of performance was posted about the same time that over a thousand people began sleeping outside the Garden box office, waiting for the first tickets to go on sale. I glanced casually at the list.

What I saw has to be a mistake. A secretarial error. There was no other explanation. I brushed past Christopher and other dancers huddled around the board. The fifth and last Juliet.

There was no mistake. There is never a mistake on a cast list. I knew that. Why pretend otherwise? I could not weep or shout. I had been rendered speechless. I could not even move. The cast list for *Romeo* was the ultimate betrayal.

Tomorrow: Terence Rattigan and the movie moguls

Extracted from Lynn: *The Autobiography of Lynn Seymour with Paul Gardner*, to be published by Granada on April 26 at £10.95.

moreover... Miles Kington

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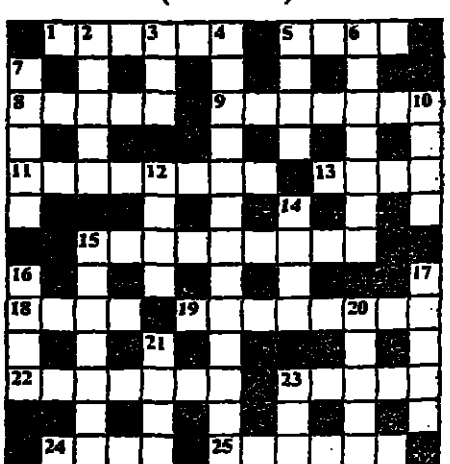
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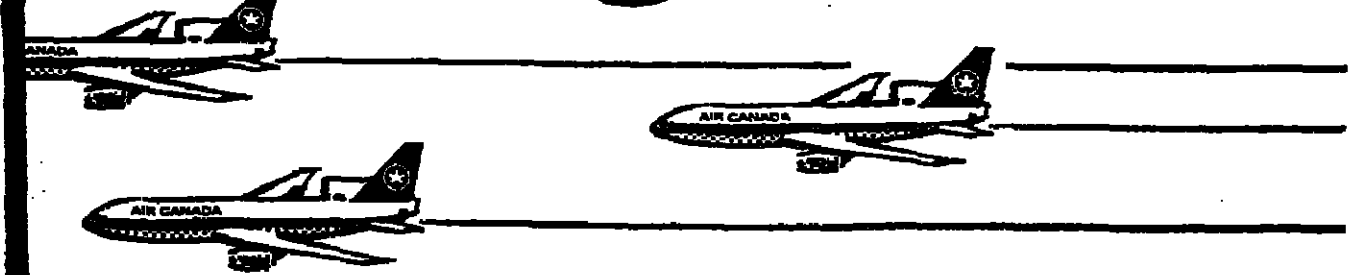
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| 3 Bottom part (4) | 3 Tool set (3) |
| 4 Not heavy (5) | 4 British patriotic song (4,9) |
| 5 Cannon cord (7) | 5 Fillet (4) |
| 6 Represent in words (6) | 6 Sports arena (7) |
| 7 Jerkily elude (4) | 7 Clearing (5) |
| 8 Roman London (9) | 8 Embankment (4) |
| 9 Lissen (4) | 9 Tenant's payment (4) |
| 10 Generous giving (8) | 10 Party faction (4) |
| 11 Pterosaur period (7) | 11 Quilt big (7) |
| 12 General tendency (5) | 12 Exhibit (4) |
| 13 Bustle (4) | 13 Intoxicating (5) |
| 14 Receive (6) | 14 Be quiescent (5) |
| | 15 Russian emperor (4) |
| | 16 Twitch (3) |

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Times past: a young Lynn with Kenneth MacMillan (left) and dancing *Romeo and Juliet* with Christopher Gable

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THE ARTS

Theatre in the United States

Why Tootsie looks to be heading for Tony

Death of a Salesman
Broadhurst, New York

Wags who are touting Dustin Hoffman's return to Broadway in "Death of a Salesman" will have to bite their tongues seconds after Mr Hoffman moves his to articulate Willy Loman's first words. As Arthur Miller's embodiment of the tragedy of the common man in "Death of a Salesman," this Tootsie should soon turn into a Tony.

Mr Hoffman has done an Olivier, truly transforming his voice and body. As if coming from a pit stream with stones, the voice retains an actor's strength and range while expressing a prematurely old man's rage and exhaustion. Looking like any suit would be too large, Mr

Hoffman resembles a clothed skeleton. Below thinned, greyed hair, large rimless spectacles constantly catch the light, as if something artificial were the only bright point in Willy Loman's appearance. In repose, Mr Hoffman could be modelling for an Edward Hopper painting.

The glasses might have been a disastrous choice for, while they help age the actor, they also hide his eyes. Considering the expressions he manages anyway, Mr Hoffman could wear a blindfold. Most notable is Willy's smile, used in hope, apology, defence, denial. One can fathom the set of his spirits by the shape of his mouth.

Nor is the rest of Mr Hoffman still: in a happy moment Willy takes his glass of scotch and Biff's and clinks them together himself in a

toast; when Biff embraces him his right hand flutters indecisively and his left lies inert as he cannot bring himself to return the gesture: after humiliation by Biff in front of Linda and Happy, Mr Hoffman lets pain move through him as if his soul were shutting down.

Glasses are only one aspect of an essentially dangerous, and thereby intensely exciting, performance. Dustin Hoffman dares to act Willy two ways at once. He plays him from the inside out in the American naturalistic tradition, but also comments on the character from a distance, taking perhaps not a leaf but a scrap from Brecht. We cannot help but sense his personal love for the character in addition to his judgment of Willy as victim of his own evasions as well as of false values. The sympathy Willy Loman

draws is not begged for but hard-won.

Michael Rudman's staging takes few false steps. The one-note satirical portrayal of Willy's boss is traditional but jarringly melodramatic; more disturbing is Kate Reid's Linda. She is excellent as the strength of the family - when she says "pay attention" you had better stand to - but she attempts little more, not even the period Brooklyn accents displayed so well by the rest of her family. At least she does not whine like so many Lindas, but hers is an adequate performance from an actress capable of being admirable.

The sons are outstanding, and an injustice of the production may be that the more subtle of the portrayals is less remarked. John Malkovich's Biff has enormous charisma in addition to a sympathetic, beaten-down timidity and even

a slight stammer. He shouts too much declaring his independence, but this is a blemish in a mesmerizing performance.

Stephen Lang's Happy, however, is alone among the principals in never calling attention to the fact that he is acting. He hovers about like a bewildered bear, moving through the world on automatic pilot, his father's son - crushed from the old block.

Whether *Death of a Salesman* makes one's heart break or even ache is ultimately a personal matter, whatever one's judgment of the play's stature. The significance of this Broadway revival is that Dustin Hoffman is as affecting as Willy Loman is ever likely to be as the character rages against the dying of the light without ever seeing it.

Holly Hill



Mesmerizing performances: John Malkovich (left), Dustin Hoffman, Stephen Lang as Biff, Willy and Happy

Dance
Five Choreographers
Riverside

Two of the choreographers who showed works at the Riverside Studios on Sunday had an advantage over the others in that their own presence infallibly adds interest even to the most boring works. Michael Clark and Gaby Agis, although different in most respects, share an ability to seem completely absorbed in what they are doing, that coupled in each case with the clear physicality of their movements, explains how they fascinate the spectator.

For his duet *New Partners*, Clark found in Ellen Van Schuylenburch a partner able to hold her own in personality and movement. But only in the last few minutes of a longish work did he allow the pair of them really to move freely. Until then, he had concentrated on his present preoccupation of *epurer l'avant-garde*, using a theme of two-finger gestures and costumes (by Leigh Bowery) with cut-out sections at the back to display the performers' bare buttocks.

The impression of a naughty little boy trying to attract attention is heightened by Clark's bright eyes and rounded cheeks. It is a pity that some real experiment, such as dancing in costume (even pointe-work and *jaques*), got lost among all the nonsense.

Still, I suppose it is better to be outrageous than dull. In that category I would put Gregory Nash's *Not Resolved*, in which he and four others crawled about, posed or writhed, and two solos by Michael Popper, raising one arm or the other (sometimes both), twisting and turning.

Gaby Agis's *Surfacing* was heralded unpromisingly by men arranging pieces of twisted metal across the back of the stage (sculpture by Kate Blacker, according to the programme credit), but took a turn for the better with an "overture" of crashes and bangs as the cast, off-stage, threw smaller bits of metal about, eventually arriving and hurling them at the "sculptures".

The work, using improvisation within a structured pattern, had some striking moments, chiefly from Agis (impeccable even when an improvising colleague almost put his foot in her face), but evoking simple, arresting gestures from others, too. On the other hand, although there is something disarmingly direct about the way she faces the audience and mutters "Thank you" at the end, it is disconcerting that this is the only way you can be sure they have finished.

In an earlier programme of Riverside's New British Dance Week, on Friday, Agis and Dennis Greenwood gave a bold sculptural intensity to Rosemary Butcher's *Imprints*, performed around a Dieter Pletsch sculpture of a broken wall. The movement itself carries little interest in Butcher's work, and Malcolm Clark's score (from wind noises to a heavenly choir) sounded contrived, but it is full of fine static poses.

John Percival

Galleries
Repressed anguishes
and rebellions

Penetrating the character of a dreamer: Cedric Morris's Self Portrait of 1919

Concerts
Dubious enterpriseRPO/Del Mar
Festival Hall

The one thing that can be even more tedious than somebody else's nationalism is one's own. On Sunday, the red, white and blue of the past six months' Great British Music Festival fluttered limply to the ground in a final concert of Lambert, Holst, Berkeley, Musgrave and Bliss.

Norman Del Mar and, still less, the Royal Philharmonic, could hardly be blamed for the grey finale to what was one of the most inappropriately conceived, funded and titled series of the London season. Though earnest defence will be made of each item in six concerts of "sadly and unjustly neglected" works, it was, ultimately, an enterprise born out of negative pragmatism. That, and a still more depressing preoccupation with indiscriminate exhumation, made it one of the most and manifestations of a backward-looking decade.

Constant Lambert's youthful *Musical for Orchestra* of 1927 was answered after the interval by Thelma Musgrave's 1967 *Concerto for Orchestra*. Where the first makes laborious, formal and contrapuntal progress as its imaginative life remains curiously static, the second glories in stasis while making lively progress through its aural

and visual concertante drama. Musgrave's vivid and complex instrumental imagination is strongly harnessed to, though unequally balanced with, invention of idea: the work's internal drama has to work hard to sustain itself.

Both works, given only gentle advocacy, were nevertheless timely pointers to the quality of this orchestra's soloists, just as Holst's *Egdon Heath* and Bliss's *Checkmate* revealed their strength in ensemble. Lennox Berkeley's cultivated yet unper-

● Claudio Abbado has been appointed Music Director of the Vienna State Opera, from the 1986-87 season, in succession to Lorin Maazel. Full story: Overseas pages

suasive Violin Concerto was rather more of a struggle in the hands of its dedicatee, Yehudi Menuhin.

The foreword to a programme book characterized by disturbingly slack thinking expresses the determination of the four London orchestras to work towards a second Festival; and a statement of intent was issued soon after the series had begun. At a time of reassessment, both the principles and practice of such an enterprise demand close and critical scrutiny.

Hilary Finch

Daniel Barenboim
Festival Hall

Daniel Barenboim's Schubert performances on Sunday were characteristically fluent, yet rarely did anything sound precisely right. The last Impromptu in the D935 set was not exactly garbled, but came over as a curiously undifferentiated collection of tunes, scales and episodes, sounding like almost random jottings. As a whole the piece was played without much sense of its meaning, except that now and again there would be a quite exquisite passage, serving to emphasize that otherwise the music existed only from one moment to the next, without any feeling of cumulative inevitability.

Actually, the preceding Impromptu were better than that, although the other F minor one, which opens the group, had a lot of detail that was not sufficiently particularized. Also, the recurring duet between treble and bass, across middle-register accompanimental figures, was too much the same, in welcome contrast, the first

section of the A flat piece, before the double bar, sounded marvellously remote and delicate, the piano tone warm, full, subtly coloured. Why does Mr Barenboim not play like this more often?

The theme of the B flat Impromptu, the variations on a *Rosamunde* tune, was equally striking for its variety of tonal inflections and its small-scale point-making. And the variations were like that, also, being expressively turned but all on rather the same level. The loud passages were louder without any increase of musical intensity - yet the closing variation, with the scales, had a most charming grace.

Schubert's B flat Sonata is obviously a more complex organism, and its long first subject was clothed in a lovely sound. This performance was far better integrated than those of the Impromptu, but often appeared merely wishful when greater depths should have been suggested. Mr Barenboim's control of the lower end of the dynamic spectrum was always remarkable, however.

Max Harrison

Gilbert and George:
The Believing World
D'OffayCedric Morris
TateArthur Lett-Haines
Redfern

Gilbert and George are (or should one say is?) the perfect balance of the artist who begins with a determinedly revolutionary stance, and commitment to *épater les bourgeois*, and then by degrees is transformed into a pillar of the new art establishment. Let me say immediately that there is nothing snide in this observation: the process is inevitable - so inevitable that there is little point in debating whether or not it is a good thing. All revolutions eventually turn upon themselves, and the rebels who storm the Bastille somehow find that they have become the new guardians of the keys. It is not even necessary for non-conformist artists to sell out and join the establishment: if they keep on in a straight line, doing what they were doing, eventually theirs will become the dominant mode, and the establishment will join them.

The present show of recent work by Gilbert and George at the D'Offay Gallery (both D'Offay Galleries, in fact, at 9 and 23 Dering Street) until May 4, combined with the major retrospective which has recently opened in Baltimore and will tour four more American museums during the next year, suggests a grand allegorical composition: Gilbert and George, flanked by Art and Commerce, being received into the Abode of the Blessed. Even the title of the new London show,

The Believing World, indicating something of the subject-matter's heady Nineties mixture of religion, right-wing politics and homo-eroticism, has a comfortably establishment tone to it, which the occasional excursions *à rebours*, into the demonic and the scatological, do little to modulate; they simply indicate the intensity of Gilbert and George's concern with some of the central issues of modern life.

For this is a show of art which, whether one likes it or not, is about something. Who, remembering their snook-cocking beginnings, no more than 15 years ago, or their days as "living sculptures", would have thought it? Well, actually, if one had looked closely enough, anybody might have thought it. From the first, they seem to have been determined to make their joint life, as one artist rather than two appreciable separate collaborators, into a work of art. During the living sculpture phase, when they did not so much perform as just exist in public for a fixed period of time - in gallery or sandwich bar, it did not really matter very much - clearly they themselves were the work of art. But in subtler ways that has always been so, and not only because their physical image has been so pervasive in more permanent artworks, as indeed it is even in the present show of large photo-pieces. Their being subsumed into their art is curiously reminiscent of that arch-aesthete Jean Cocteau, and the way he set out to make himself into a poem and all his work, in whatever medium, into "poésie".

Gilbert and George are in a similar sense arch-aesthetes, leading the dedicated life in art. But this kind of dedication, for them as for Cocteau, becomes in itself a moral stance, and their art, from being about themselves, little by little comes to use them as a glass through which we see, refracted, an

image of the world - the world, of course, as they see it and coloured by their interests and concerns. And, as with all fundamentally moral art, what counts is not so much the nature of the morality as the intensity with which it is felt and embodied in images.

The present series of images is their richest and most complex yet. Their last show of photo-pieces at D'Offay seemed to indicate a certain artistic complacency creeping in: though we are firmly instructed that photo-pieces must not be referred to as photographs, a number in this previous show were just that, compartmented and tinted but gaining in slickness only to lose in sheer invention. The latest works could never be mistaken for photographs, though most (not quite all) clearly include photographic elements among their resources. They are large, often violently coloured pictures which make play with religious imagery, Christian and other, as well as grimy urban landscape, working-class youths (not nude this time, but still given a strong erotic charge), spikes and thorns and insects and excrement alongside moons and stars and exotic tropical flowers.

Not to mention Gilbert and George themselves. Apart from occasionally pulling devilish faces, they are as a rule carefully inexpressive, the implication seeming to be that beneath their non-committal, immaculately suited exteriors lie all kinds of repressed anguishes and rebellions. The lads are sometimes allowed to express horror or puzzlement, to walk on air or to dream idyllic or hideous dreams. And the general impression created by the show is one of powerful - and very uncomfortable - emotion held in check by the formal requirements of the individual pieces, much as Gilbert and George seem held in check by their natty, conservative tweeds.

They see the world, and on the whole they do not like what they see. The life imprisoned in the living statues wants to get out, and their art is, at the very least, an extraordinary documentation of the struggle. They do not make any obvious concessions, but then they do not need to.

By an odd coincidence, a pair of British artists from an earlier generation who chose to share their lives and work, if not to the same extent their art, is being celebrated at present in two simultaneous though separate exhibitions. Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett-Haines met on Armistice Night, 1918 (or maybe a couple of days later), and immediately fell in love. Morris was 29, Lett-Haines 24, and they continued to live and work together for the rest of their long lives - Lett-Haines died in 1978 and Morris in 1982. The work that they shared was primarily teaching, at their own very independently minded school in East Anglia, where the more noted pupils included Lucien Freud and Maggi Hambling.

It seems that they taught mainly by example, which must have been primarily Morris's example, since Lett-Haines, though a talented painter himself (some thought the more talented of the two), shouldered most of the organizational and domestic chores in order to protect and foster his friend's gifts. His was apparently the more intellectual turn of mind, while Morris was more dreamy and impractical - except in his alternative consuming interest as a plantsman (his gardens were famous and most of his publications were highly specialized articles on plants in learned journals).

Both painters went through (indeed almost chose) years of neglect, the Tate acquiring its first Morris just before his death. But now honourable amends are made with a major

retrospective of Morris at the Tate, until May 13, and a smaller but still intriguing retrospective of Lett-Haines at the Redfern Gallery, Cork Street, until April 19.

Morris was self-taught, and sometimes it rather uncomfortably shows. The first room of his works is frankly dismaying: it consists largely of landscapes and fantasy pieces, posed insecurely between the primitive and the professional without being sufficiently either. But round the corner we come upon a series of portraits which at once show his true gifts: they are technically adept enough to display properly his remarkable penetration of character. The rest of the pictures are also in a sense portraits - portraits of other things which roused his enthusiasm, like birds and flowers and vegetables. Here the touch of naivety becomes charming, the colours are extremely cheery, and one is reminded of another very different painter who managed to carry a certain innocence of vision into the most unlikely circumstances, Edward Burra.

Lett-Haines is a much more complex figure. While Morris remained blandly unaffected by the course of twentieth-century art, Lett-Haines was well aware of what was going on and is strongly influenced at different periods of his career by Cubism and Surrealism. A lot of the Surrealism in his work seems, however, to be inborn, reflecting a natural taste for fantasy and witty incongruity. Many of his best works, such as the junglescapes with nudes concealed among the leaves, have strong erotic undertones - an element seemingly quite absent from Morris's work. Morris must pose something of a puzzle to students of the alleged gay sensibility, but in this area Lett-Haines provides ample food for thought.

John Russell Taylor

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THE TIMES DIARY

Going, going - back

Johnny Shand-Kydd, the Princess of Wales' stepbrother, was at the centre of a legal battle yesterday after his employers, the Fine Arts Society in Edinburgh, were granted a temporary injunction against Sotheby's, preventing them from releasing a painting. The Society is suing for breach of contract after a Sotheby's auctioneer reopened bidding after the picture, by E. A. Walton, was knocked down to Shand-Kydd for £11,000.

The incident happened last week at a sale at Hopetoun House, seat of the Marquess of Linlithgow, to which Shand-Kydd had been despatched to bid on behalf of the Society. Four lots after his successful bid, the auctioneer suddenly declared that he was obliged to reoffer the Walton because of problems over a telephone bidder. After much boing and hissing from the 200 dealers present, bidding was resumed, and Shand-Kydd lost to the anonymous bidder, who secured it for £15,500. Shand-Kydd's boss, Andrew Patrick, tells me he wants the picture at "any price." The case is due to be heard in London on Thursday.

Such is fame

Bob Champion, the trainer and former jockey who fought off cancer to ride the 1981 Grand National winner Aldaniti, has now become a familiar figure with the public. But not so with the Aintree gatekeepers, who refused him admittance to the racecourse last Friday. Champion, who wanted to test the going for his runner, Breac Ban, told them in vain that he was. He had to sneak in through a back entrance. His horse was last but one.

● In a world where not all adverts are legal, decent, honest and truthful, Harrow Communications Systems' letter to prospective clients is a model of candour: "We are notorious for our on-site service... even British Telecom approves".

Righteous

Following the recent appointment of Norman Stone as Provost of Modern History at Oxford, another member of the Cambridge right may go west. The Chair of Ecclesiastical History falls vacant this year. Oxford dons believe the Prime Minister - in whose hands the gift lies - is likely to appoint Dr Edward Norman, presently Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge. The "Blue Dean" has endeared himself to Mrs Thatcher with his robust attacks on the Church of England's leftward tendencies, and last year he declared her administration for him to the High Table at Somerville, during a visit to her old college. In the past Dr Norman's abrasive manner has hindered his advance in both church and academia, but his appointment at Oxford would be a double coup, as the Chair also carries a Canonry at Christ Church Cathedral.

BARRY FANTONI



'My husband's in the attic - Graham Greene spent a week here just after the war'

Dead ringer

Sir Ian Gilmour's Bill to allow bookies to turn up their betting shops has removed its disguise after being revealed as a wolf in sheep's clothing in this diary 10 days ago. As the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill made little progress until Sir Ian changed its name to the innocuous Specified Premises (Improvement) Bill, then it sneaked through a second reading unopposed and unnoticed by the anti-gambling lobby. Now in committee, it stands again under its original name.

● A wall at a Transport Advisory Committee conference held in Heathrow the other day was emblazoned with enormous polysyllabic letters: BEDFORD MEANS BUSINESS. And it still is. Until the first three letters dropped off.

Protest march

A mass exodus is threatening the Arts Council's literature fund after the decision to halve its budget. By yesterday the poet David Harcourt and Thames Television executive Catherine Freeman had left in protest. Meanwhile three others on the steering committee - Douglas Dunn, the poet, Penelope Fitzgerald, the 1979 Booker prize winner, and Philippa Pearce, the fiction writer, have ended their two-year term and have not been invited to carry on in office. Yesterday Harcourt was particularly incensed by the council's assertion that literature is supported by a thriving publishing industry. "This is a woeful misapprehension", he said.

PHS

No wonder the milk men are sour

by Hugh Noyes

Mr Michael Jopling, we are told, welcomes the agricultural package agreed on Saturday in Brussels. Britain's 39,000 dairy farmers, who will be forced under the terms of the agreement to severely cut production or hand over their excess milk free to the Milk Marketing Board, are somewhat less enthusiastic. For many thousands of producers the package could be financially disastrous.

"EEC ministers turn off the milk tap", claimed one newspaper headline heralding the agreement as an historic breakthrough. But milk production is not a tap that can be turned on and off at the whim of politicians. So far the press has accepted the package in terms of Euro-politics with little or no consideration for what it means to the man in the cowshed, who may have been building up a herd of cattle for the greater part of his life and may care little for Mrs Thatcher's budget rebate.

In some mysterious way, which no one has yet explained to the dairy farmer, thousands of litres of milk which could be sold on March 31, could no longer be sold on April 1, regardless of solvency, employment or any other problem.

As *The Times*' Parliamentary Correspondent for 16 years, I left to build a new career in dairy farming in May 1982 and have built up a herd of 100 Friesian dairy cattle now producing between 50,000 and 60,000 litres a month. We hear that, in calculating quotas, the Government may choose either 1981 production plus 1 per cent or 1983

minus 6 per cent - figures which on a national basis, apparently, amount to the same thing. So, at the worst, if 1981 is chosen I should have to cut production, somehow within 24 hours, from a rate of 55,000 litres a month to about 28,000. At best, if the 1983 figure is adopted, the reduction would have to be to 37,000 litres.

But the most worrying feature of the situation is that no one has told the dairy farmer directly what is expected of him or what he is supposed to do if his farm, which was solvent on March 31, suddenly became insolvent on April 1 through no fault of his own. This is not to blame the National Farmers' Union or the MMB, which appear almost as much in the dark.

I have ten tons of cattle cake costing £2,000 arriving which would have fed my herd and kept up production for the next two weeks until, weather permitting, the cows can be turned out to grass. Do I cancel this order on the assumption that I shall not be paid for milk produced above my quota? What is my quota? The Milk Marketing Board says it will take some time to set the system up. It would seem that the quotas, when set, will be retrospective to April 1. But will they be monthly quotas or will they be on an annual basis which would allow for over-production in some months and under-production in others? Since no one at the moment knows what these quotas are

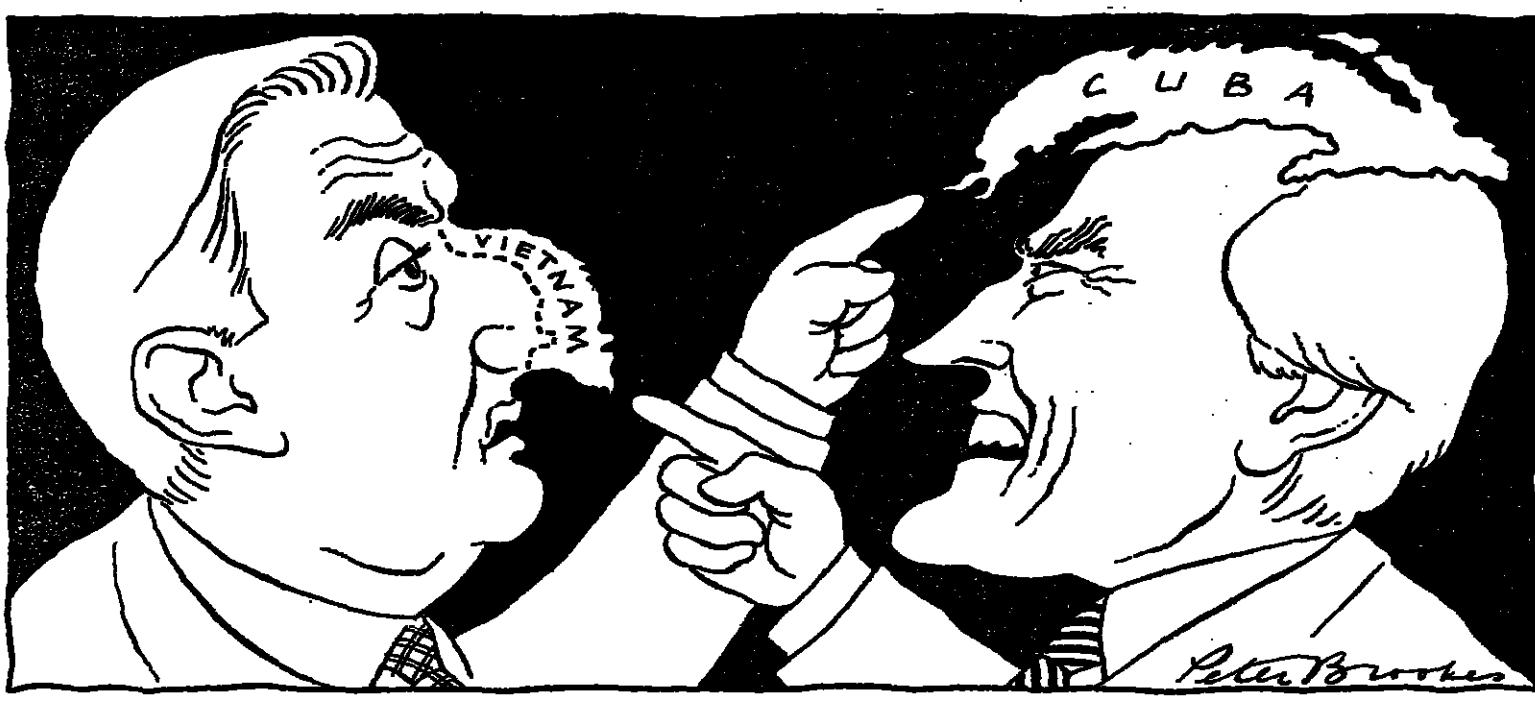
going to be, whatever is produced in the next few months will be a gamble.

On the face of it, I should slaughter between 25 per cent to 30 per cent of my cattle. If this step were taken, it would have to be done at a considerable loss because dairy farmers all over the country would be in the same situation and the beef market would be inundated. Another uncertainty is the appeals procedure, if any, against the individual farm quota.

When the heads of state summit collapsed we were told that no quota system could come into operation for several months until the next summit. Then we were advised to keep up production during April and May. Now, suddenly, dairy farmers find that the agriculture ministers have agreed a package on March 31, and that the system will operate, regardless of hardship, from April 1. Do I go out tomorrow morning and tip a quarter of my milk down the drain? What has happened to the White Paper "Food from our own Resources", and why, since Britain's milk production supplies only 80 per cent of the country's requirements, do we have to cut back by 6 per cent on 1983 while France's reduction is 2.5 per cent and the Irish can increase production by nearly 5 per cent?

One way or another, the cheers for Mr Jopling that are resounding along the corridors of Whitehall do not find a ready echo in the cold recesses of the cowshed at four in the morning as Daisy and Buttercup come in for the first milking of the day.

Mondale v Hart: Nicholas Ashford on the foreign policy divide



Why the man who muscled in wants to keep muscle out

Washington Senator Gary Hart has accused Walter Mondale, his main rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, of wanting to leave American combat troops in Central America to "serve as bodyguards to dictators" and as "bargaining chips with Nicaragua".

In turn, Mr Mondale has attacked the Colorado senator for "inexcusable inconsistency" on arms control and nuclear freeze issues. "To follow my opponents' policies to control nuclear weapons is like following a blackbird on a dark night", he said recently. Each man has accused the other of being less than wholehearted in his support for Israel.

In the run-up to the important New York Democratic primary being held today, both candidates have begun to focus on foreign affairs as their main area of attack. Each believes the other is vulnerable on foreign policy - each hopes to find in this arena a fatal weakness in the other's defences.

Long before the presidential campaign began, it was clear that foreign policy, after the economy, would be the main issue of the 1984 election. Whoever wins the Democratic nomination will direct much of his fire on President Reagan's patchy record in the Middle East and Central America, the deadlock caused by his administration's arms control policies, and the strains which have developed over the past three years with European allies.

However, what has only recently become evident since the race for the Democratic nomination turned into a neck-and-neck contest between Mondale and Hart are the differences which exist within the Democratic Party itself on how the US should conduct its overseas.

These differences to a large extent mirror the generation gap which has brought the Mondale-Hart contest has brought to the surface. Mondale essentially supports a continuation of the internationalist policies which have

been followed by successive administrations since the Second World War.

Hart takes a more introspective view of the world, particularly when it comes to flexing US military muscle abroad. While firmly rejecting accusations that he is isolationist, he has made it clear he would follow a less interventionist foreign policy than any of his recent predecessors.

Hart grew to political maturity as campaign manager during George McGovern's unsuccessful presidential bid in 1972, a time when members of his generation were revolting against US involvement in the Vietnam war. Avoiding "another Vietnam" lies at the root of his thinking about how the US should handle itself overseas in the late twentieth century.

Mondale, on the other hand, is a disciple of the late Hubert Humphrey who, as vice-president to Lyndon Johnson, supported the war in Vietnam. Although Mondale (like Humphrey) eventually came to oppose continued US involvement, his record places him on the opposite side of the "post-Vietnam policy divide" from Hart.

In a recent speech to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, Hart summed up the themes of his foreign policy as "reciprocity, reliability and restraint" - more specifically, reciprocity in our relations with the Soviet Union, reliability in our relations with our friends and allies, and restraint in

our relations with the Third World. It is the third of these "three Rs" which provides the key to Hart's foreign policy thinking. As he told the council, "Restraint means sending troops only as a last resort, not the first. It means using force only selectively, not automatically."

His apparent unwillingness to use military power has already got him into choppy water. Mondale and other critics have homed in on his assertion that the US allies, who depend on Arab oil supplies more than the Americans, should be mainly responsible for keeping the oil routes through the Gulf open if Iran should try to close the Strait of Hormuz.

He has also been attacked for proposing a reduction of American ground troops in Europe while asking NATO allies to do more for their own defence. But Mondale retorted: "Our allies must contribute more to our common defence, but we cannot afford to contribute less. A strong American presence in Europe helps to deter Soviet aggression, and reduces the risk that we will have to choose between surrender and nuclear war."

Mondale's main emphasis has been on his own four years' experience in the White House as vice-president in the Carter administration. "You must have a sure-footed leader, someone who knows what he's doing and who sees the world as it is" is his constant refrain. He likes to explain how, on his first

day as vice-president, he had been taken to the situation room in the White House and told "what's expected of you if the worst happens".

However, Mondale's White House experience is a double-edged sword. Americans still recall that the US suffered one of its worst international humiliations at the hands of Ayatollah Khomeini when Carter and Mondale were in the White House.

The Hart-Mondale battle for supremacy in the foreign policy field is now being fought over Central America. In his speeches and through a \$500,000 advertising campaign, Hart has been warning that his rival would continue policies in the region that threaten large losses of American lives in the next decade.

One of his commercials says: "When President Reagan sent our troops to Central America, he called them advisers. Remember Vietnam? Our troops now serve as bodyguards to dictators, and as a slow-burning fuse to war."

Mondale agreed with President Reagan and said he, too, would leave some of the troops there as bargaining chips with Nicaragua. And he attacks Gary Hart for forcefully saying, "Get them out. Our sons as bargaining chips? - Will we never learn?"

Mondale has denied the charge, saying he would bring most of the troops home, and has accused Hart of throwing in the towel in Central America and leaving it to the Cubans and Russians.

Whether Hart's appeal to avoid another Vietnam will sway elderly voters, who make up the bulk of New York's electorate, remains to be seen. But the strong support he has won from the young in all the races so far shows that his view of his country's role in the world has a strong appeal among the new generation of voters which has propelled him to the forefront.

Roger Scruton

Race hatred the antis ignore

The campaign to portray British society in general, and the Conservative Party in particular, as "racist" is gathering momentum. If I were convinced that those most active in prosecuting it had any genuine attachment to British customs and institutions, or any genuine allegiance to the Crown, I should feel more sympathy. But when the very same people urge us, from the very platforms placed at their disposal by such bodies as the GLC, to destroy the traditional school curriculum, and to censor textbooks, in the interest of "multi-cultural" education, then I doubt their motives. For what is the purpose of such a change, if not to perpetuate the conditions which have traditionally led to racial conflict? What is "multi-cultural education" if not a means to ensure that our minorities continue to identify themselves as such, and so remain detached from the political condition which surrounds them, enduring victims of an enduring disadvantage?

No doubt everyone is now thoroughly bored by this artificially induced hysteria. But one important aspect of it has been so far overlooked. At the risk of boring you further, I mention it here, since it seems to me to touch on the basic question of loyalty: the question of who is attacking whom, and why. I refer to the failure of the anti-racist lobby to concern itself with the principal form of European racism: hatred of the Jews.

In the aftermath of the Second World War it was quite normal for left-wing writers and politicians to denounce anti-semitism, and to identify it as one of the "reactionary" social movements over which socialism was beginning to triumph. The Soviet propaganda machine gave its muted support to these denunciations, and was effectively to conceal for two more decades the real fate of the Soviet and East European Jews under communism.

Circumstances, however, soon began to govern sentiment. In particular, the state of Israel emerged as the greatest single obstacle to Soviet policy in the Middle East, and the natural instrument of American influence.

The propaganda machine turned its annihilating rhetoric against Zionism, and Jews within the Soviet empire were now persecuted more openly as agents of the "Zionist state". Revulsion towards anti-semitic feeling was an obstacle to the new campaign against "Zionism", and quietly "anti-semitism" was dropped from the agenda. Its place was taken by "racism", a concept in any case more adapted to Soviet strategic requirements in the Third World.

I would not wish for one moment to suggest that left-wing rhetoric is controlled from Moscow. But all

rhetoric depends upon repetition for its survival, and it is therefore unsurprising to find so little mention of anti-semitism among those who advocate "struggle" against fascism, racism, monetarism, and the police state of Mrs Thatcher. That force which led to the greatest racial crime in history, and beside which the timid protest of the National Front seems like a mere carnival of the depressed, is passed over altogether, as though it had never really occurred.

"So much the better", you may say. "So much the greater proof that we have emerged from that particular darkness." However, I do not believe that we have. Even in England, it seems to me, the legitimizing of "anti-Zionism" has cast a shadow of anti-semitic feeling, so that belligerent or questionable actions by the state of Israel are condemned as expressions of this or that quintessentially "Jewish" characteristic. I shall give an example. On March 23, the TLS published a most extraordinary poem - if so desultory a piece of prose could be called a poem - by Peter Reading, purporting to be an eye-witness account of an incident in the Lebanese civil war. A boy spatters a "fat juicy jeep of Israelis" with machine gun fire:

windscreen-glass frosted and one of the front seats occupied
red.
there was a crackle of fire, ten or so seconds, and then,
as from a colander, into the pavement streamed out the juices of the assailant, a slight soldier/homunculus. Well, nobody looks for a motive from these Old Testament shitters - thick hate is still in the genes. I learned the boy was aged 12

Bad writing always hides more of its meaning than it reveals. Nevertheless the meaning of those last two lines seems clear: the Israelis (for who else could be referred to as "Old Testament shitters" and thick hatred - presumably their hatred - is "still in the genes". Moreover, since clearly the duty of such vermin is to be fired on and patiently accept their extinction, they had no motive to retaliate.

To associate the Jewish religion, first with excrement (in defence, perhaps, to Freud's theory of money love), and then with a hatred that is genetically determined, is that this, if not anti-semitism, is pure, unconstructed form? It is surely testimony to the changed climate of taste that such a poem should have found its way so innocently into the TLS. And even if the influence of these lines, worthy of the pen of E. J. Thribb, is likely to be minimal, I cannot escape the impression that the sentiment conveyed by them is echoed by many who lack Peter Reading's ability to discover its appropriate literary expression.

Robin Cook

Peddalling into the poverty trap

Let us now sing of men getting on their bicycles. Mr Gowans is one. Had he known I was calling he would probably have put on a shirt, but I caught him at home in sweatshirt and jeans. His bare shoulders revealed the powerful biceps of a man accustomed to exercise; a fit man in his prime. He has been unemployed for two years.

There are many like him in Livingston. The rate of male unemployment in the constituency is 21 per cent, high even by the bleak standards of central Scotland. At 37 Mr Gowans is too old for those jobs that are on offer. He is also caught in the vicious circle: the longer he is unemployed, the more swiftly he is rejected by employers. He knows men like him whose only expectation is "retirement" from a workforce from which they have already been excluded.

Mr Gowans refused to submit to that future. Last autumn he talked it through with his wife and they agreed that as it was so difficult locally he should try his luck in the more promising labour market of London. In October he walked up to the motorway and hitched a lift. Fittingly he found lodgings in Chingford, the seat of Norman Tebbit, whose rhetoric Mr Gowans had put into practice.

Jobs are not to be found for the picking in London, not even in Chingford. But Mr Gowans is a determined and experienced applicant. In the meantime he and his family had to live. He therefore reapplied for supplementary benefit for himself and his family, and now he met with a discouragement more telling than the indifference of employers.

He was not entitled to draw supplementary benefit for his family. As he had deserted his wife and children they must make a separate application. It was a delicate matter explaining to his wife over the phone that technically she had been deserted, but Mrs Gowans has the same resilience as her husband and took the challenge.

The DHSS readily accepted responsibility for paying her benefit. Processing broken families is a matter in which they have much experience, as high unemployment is attended by a high incidence of single parents. They therefore exhibited no surprise at receiving an application from yet another household which appeared to have collapsed under the twin strain of financial hardship and enforced idleness.

Supplementary benefit was arranged to start then and there. It was only when the DHSS turned to housing benefit that Mrs Gowans encountered blank incomprehension of the qualified nature of her

desertion. To claim housing benefit in her own right it would be necessary for the tenant to be transferred to her name, but they anticipated no difficulty in arranging for the housing authority to do so, now that her husband had abandoned her.

After a while Mrs Gowans gave up trying to explain that she had not been abandoned. She steeled herself to explain to her husband that he was no longer the tenant of their home.

The following month Mr Gowans got a job as a porter in a warehouse of a West End store. It was now November, and all month he carried out stock for the seasonal spending rush by the affluent society whose purchasing power had drawn him there. His wage was £92.60, but deductions now bear heavily on the poor and he took away only £67.50. The real gain was that for the first time in two years he had the satisfaction and self-respect of knowing he had found work for which someone was willing to employ him.

His wife's entitlement to benefit ceased when his job started. The family may have been obliged to apply as a separate household while Mr Gowans was unemployed, but now that he was in work they were recognized as a single household whom he was required to maintain. Mr Gowans found that he was receiving in take-home pay only £2 per week more than the family had previously received in supplementary benefit, out of which he had to manage the impossible task of supporting himself in London. Moreover, when his wife's supplementary benefit had been cancelled, so too had the housing benefit in her name. She was now receiving demands for the rent and rates in full.

By February the couple were £130 in arrears over rent and the financial pressure to give up was irresistible. Mr Gowans reluctantly and bitterly gave up the one job he had found and returned to his wife. The next day they went down and renewed his application for benefit. The DHSS stopped £10.70 per week on the grounds that he had made himself voluntarily unemployed.

All Mr Gowans has left from his brave attempt to escape is a hefty rent arrears and a lower rate of benefit. Much worse is the knowledge that he is trapped in a pit of permanent unemployment, fettered by a system that appears designed to drag him back when he tries to climb out. And still occasionally he will hear a politician talk glibly of jobs being there if only the unemployed will move to them.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

The crime in revising Mao's little red book

China's pragmatic leaders are generating changes so profound in the lives of the country's 800 million peasants that in Mao's day those responsible would have been charged with counter-revolution.

However, ideological considerations apart, a paradox is emerging in the Chinese countryside: current get-rich-quick policies are producing both abundance and crime; in the future they may lead to starvation.

The Responsibility System is producing the prosperity, initiated in 1979, it now embraces 98 per cent of the peasantry, who retain for private sale whatever remains after the fulfilment of state quotas, which is no longer a sign of following "the capitalist road"; many families are turning out higher yields than entire production brigades in the past.

This year the newly rich farmers were further encouraged by the reintroduction in all but name of the right to own, lease and transfer land "for more than 15 years". It is guaranteed in Central Committee 1984 Document Number One, which also permits peasants who can afford it to hire up to seven agricultural labourers.

This amounts to being a landlord, one of the blackest marks in Communist accounts of the past. Several million landlords, exploiters

by definition, were shot in the early 1950s.

That was when revolutionary resentment ran high. Nowadays, driven by the need to quadruple production by the year 2000, a goal which the present rural policies may achieve, Mao's former comrades offer little ideological justification for the rapid growth of peasant entrepreneurs. As for the accompanying increase in inequality, they give it their blessing.

What they cannot have bargained for is the inevitable result: the poor stealing from the rich. It is a reversion to one of the bleakest features of the traditional rural society in which peasants struggled in a world of each against all.

In one county in the northwest Ningxia Autonomous Region, near the Mongolian border, every official policeman, according to the local radio, has been alerted to protect well-off melon-growers and fish farmers from thieves who not only rob but assault their victims. There used to be two police posts in the county, now there are 11.

The robbers' targets are the county's "specialized households". These make up one-fifth of the local population. They are the rural workers who have abandoned normal agriculture to concentrate on cash products such as melons or fish, or on services like transport, construction and repairs.

The peasants' enthusiasm for profit could lead to shortages in the Chinese staff of life: rice, wheat and millet. The big money awaits those who produce cash crops or supply services. Since 1979 less land each year has been given over to grains, a departure from Mao's dictum, "take grain as the key link". Because the government holds grain prices steady, the prices for free-market commodities are much higher. The inevitable result is a rapid rise in production of all agricultural products except grain. If there is a repetition of the great droughts and floods of 1979-81, widespread hunger could reappear in China.

Nevertheless, farmers are allowed a degree of independence that not long ago would have been denounced as *dangan feng* - the wind of individualism. These days, the party smoothly contends, the reason why some peasants are richer than others is not that they sweat more, but that they are cleverer. Completely erasing 60 years of party polemics, vice-premier Wan Li declared recently that rich peasants are a model for poor ones.

In such a competitive atmosphere stealing is predictable. Before the 1949 Communist victory, when peasants tilled minute parcels of land, they and their families protected their harvests from even poorer neighbours. After collectivization in the 1950s peasants were equally well or badly off, and police security was protected by "five guarantees": medical care, housing, clothes, food and burial.

However, as rich peasants build large houses for themselves and their children, enjoy opulent weddings, and buy private vans, the ultimate party ideal of an end to rural suffering is vanishing fast.

Between 1959 and 1961, it is now conceded, at least 20 million Chinese starved to death because Mao's obsessions with perfect equality led to declines in output. If there is another of China's periodic rural catastrophes, it is not certain that rampant individualism will serve peasants better.

Jonathan Mirsky

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LABOUR'S LOST VOICE

What politicians choose not to say is often as revealing as what they do say. The leadership of the Labour Party has contributed almost nothing but a bottomless silence to the debate over the central issues raised by the miners strike, in spite of the fact - or rather because of it - that the dispute has implications which affect the whole purpose and identity of the Labour movement. The National Executive passed a resolution last week saying, in effect, that it was all got up by the police and the press, and Mr Benn was merely upstaging his leader in the eyes of the committed yesterday by saying much the same. Mr Kinnock, not normally a taciturn man, has been applying taciturnity for all he is worth.

By leaving the initiative thus to Mr Scargill, Mr Kinnock risks yielding to him the leading role in determining what kind of party Labour will be in the immediate future. Party leaders can always find an excuse for not leading, so as not to alienate one side or another in an internal conflict: there were times when Lord Wilson in his premiership seemed to have elevated the habit into his ruling principle. But when a party is uncertain of its identity, as Labour has been since the general election if not for much longer, the leader should take care not to let things drift.

It is reported that Mr Kinnock is directing his energies behind the scenes towards securing an early recall of the NUM executive and the holding of a ballot. A ballot is obviously the only way the union has left of healing the divisions that the Yorkshire

faction has so cynically opened up. But events quite out of Mr Kinnock's hands would influence the result of a ballot and put their mark on the future of his party.

The gradual increase in the number of pits working in spite of picketing pressure, as well as the results of opinion polls which indicate declining support among miners for a strike, may suggest that a ballot would reject a strike call. That remains the likeliest thing, but it is by no means a certainty. Like Mrs Thatcher (who has also been unwontedly quiet in public about the dispute - not being responsible for the political coherence of the movement to which Mr Scargill claims to have given allegiance), Mr Kinnock may hope that events will confound his extremist opponents without intervention on his part. But he should not count on that; and if by any chance things go the other way, it will be very hard to get the movement back on course again. The strikers stand for industrial nostalgia and protection, for support by the taxpayer of uneconomic activities without time-limit, and for unlawfulness and intimidation in the conduct of industrial disputes. To go that way is to condemn the party to the casuistry of Mr James Mortimer's remark last week: "Mass picketing is not intimidation." The public have seen that variety of peaceful persuasion on their television screens and know its true character well enough. Does Mr Kinnock share Mr Mortimer's view?

Even though there are signs

that an increasing number of the miners themselves see that the conflict wished on them is likely to do more harm than good to the interests of their industry as a whole, the dispute is still spreading in ways that should be even more worrying to Mr Kinnock. Union leaders of other groups like the railwaymen, the seamen and (with an evident and most prudent reluctance) the steelmen, are beginning to call for a blacking of movements of coal. The old "triple alliance", even reinforced by the seamen and the more formidable arm of the lorry drivers, does not have the muscle-power it did in earlier generations. But the unions concerned may expose themselves to civil claims brought by their industries' customers, whether public or private.

Such developments would tend to polarize opinion, as the confrontationalists no doubt calculate. In separating those who support legality from those who do not, it would clarify the real issues in a way that might ultimately tend to isolate the opponents of law, however much initial sympathy the martyrdom of a union's bank-balance might attract. The internal loyalty of the movement, like that of the miners themselves, is an asset of great value to its leaders, but one which can be dissipated by being invoked unjustifiably. Of all those involved, the group that stands to lose most from a sharper politicization of the dispute will be those who aspire to lead a Labour Party with pretensions to constitutionalism and to a coherent economic programme. Labour needs leadership on this question, and it is not forthcoming.

THE VAROSHA STARTING-POINT

Neither Cyprus nor the Aegean is likely to be on the agenda of Nato's nuclear planning group, which is meeting today. But both will haunt the corridors of the meeting if only because it is being held in Cesme, a resort on the Turkish Aegean coast within sight of the Greek island of Chios. Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defence, stopped in Athens on his way to the meeting for talks with the Greek prime minister, Mr Papandreu, who once again told him that Greece regards Turkey, not the Soviet Union, as the most serious threat to its security; and yesterday he had an hour's talk with his Turkish counterpart, Mr Zeki Yavuztürk, who told him that Turkey will not act on Cyprus under pressure.

Mr Yavuztürk was referring to a vote in the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week which sought to make \$215 million of US military aid to Turkey conditional on the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Varosha, the formerly Greek Cypriot suburb of Famagusta which is at present under Turkish Cypriot control. Mr Weinberger replied that the Reagan administration would do everything possible to reverse this decision, which is to be reviewed by the Committee at its meeting today.

Varosha has frequently been canvassed as the most promising starting-point for any step-by-step settlement of the Cyprus conflict, because it is the place where the least painful concession by the Turks would bring

the most relief to the Greeks. It consists almost entirely of Greek Cypriot-owned hotels, no Turks have been allowed to settle there since 1974, it is contiguous with territory still held by the Greek Cypriots, and its return would allow some 40,000 of the 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to return home at a stroke.

At the last summit meeting of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, in 1979, it was agreed that talks on the resettlement of Varosha should start simultaneously with negotiations for a comprehensive settlement and that any agreement on it should be implemented without waiting for the outcome of discussions on other issues. But no agreement has been reached. In January this year the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktaş, agreed "in principle" to place part of Varosha under an interim UN administration; but Greek Cypriot resettlement there was to be the subject of further talks on the same terms as before - while the Greek Cypriots, since last November, have been insisting that any further talks must be preceded by a rescission of the Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence.

The UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, has been trying to break the deadlock. He proposed that the Turkish Cypriots should hand over the whole of Varosha to the UN, which would allow the Greek Cypriot inhabitants to return, and should, without actually rescinding their UDI, agree to "freeze" any develop-

ments based on it - i.e. further steps to institutionalize partition. In return the Greek Cypriots would agree to return to the intercommunal talks and not to keep appealing to the UN for an imposed solution. Mr Denktaş has yet to reply formally to these proposals but the week before last, after a meeting with President Evren of Turkey, he revealed their full scope and described them as prejudiced in favour of the Greek side.

The vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee can be seen as a gesture of exasperation at this blatant Turkish stalling. American legislators, who are on the whole willing to spend American money on the strengthening of Nato, do not see the continued Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus as conducive to that end. In 1978 they agreed to lift the embargo on military aid to Turkey only on condition that the President make reports every sixty days on progress towards a solution of the Cyprus problem. Those reports are still made, but there is no progress for them to report, and the Turkish Cypriot UDI was clearly a step in the opposite direction.

Cyprus is not a member of Nato and its affairs are formally outside Nato's scope. But the unresolved Cyprus issue is a running sore in Nato's south-eastern flank, causing division between Nato members. Military aid to Turkey is necessary, but should be accompanied by a more strenuous effort to solve the Cyprus problem.

ASSAULTING THE BUREAUCRACY

An important pledge by the Prime Minister has been more than redeemed this week. In the spring of 1980, the Prime Minister promised to reduce her direct labour force - the Civil Service - to 630,000 by April 1 1984. Yesterday the total stood at 628,182 if the Treasury's latest estimate is to be believed. She has cut 104,118 officials from a total of 732,300 she inherited from Mr Callaghan in 1979. Mrs Thatcher's assault on the bureaucracy has been the most successful of any Prime Minister since 1945.

A detailed plan for further economies is now being prepared which should reduce Whitehall manpower to 592,723 by April 1, 1988. Inevitably, the methods used for deflating swollen staff numbers over the past five years have been somewhat crude. Cash limits are a necessary but unsuitable discipline. The efficiency studies or scrutinies pioneered by Lord Rayner and carried on by Sir Robin Ibbes, Mrs Thatcher's current efficiency adviser on part-time loan from ICI, are a much more sophisticated method of relating workload to manpower. With luck and skill, the second phase of cuts should be more delicately achieved by the Rayner-Ibbes scalpel than the Treasury axe. The Government's financial management initiative, another Rayner invention, is providing

an infinitely better range of information for departmental managers, both ministers and permanent secretaries, than anything they have possessed before.

Mrs Thatcher's Efficiency Unit also has something to celebrate this week. After five years of probing and experimentation, the economies achieved as a result of investigations carried out in departments under the Unit's supervision means that £1m is being saved every working day in Whitehall. Out of the £16,100m it costs to run the state machine each year before a single Bill is drafted or Cabinet minute written up, a million a day looks tiny. But it is more than symbolic. It is an indication that the management climate in Whitehall has changed. The change is irreversible according to some of the more phlegmatic officials who were occupying top posts even before Mrs Thatcher arrived in Downing Street with her admirable efficiency fixation.

Sir Robin Ibbes and his tiny staff in the Cabinet Office are approaching a watershed, however. Their efforts have so far been concentrated on the 13 per cent of public expenditure devoted to the running costs of Whitehall and the armed forces (at £5.50 per week for every man, woman and child in the country, these are still too high as the Ibbes team is the first to admit). But

the view has hardened in departments that unless and until the unit can apply its techniques to the 87 per cent of public spending devoted to programmes, Sir Robin's scrutinies are doomed to remain in the foothills of efficiency and economy with no chance of storming the commanding heights. Cybernetically put, they must go for the output as well as input.

That will not be easy either technically or politically. The achievements of Lord Rayner and Sir Robin have relied to a very large extent on their suggestions winning consent from Cabinet ministers and permanent secretaries. Both breeds could cause trouble if they felt their cherished spending programme were under threat not just from Treasury sharks perpetually gnawing at budgets, but from an arriviste group in the Cabinet Office, basking in the sunlight of prime-ministerial approval. It would be a pity if Sir Robin was deterred by that. It would be a pity if Cabinet ministers and permanent secretaries took such a narrow view of the public interest. The extension of the Rayner-Ibbes systems to spending programmes is a challenge worthy of Mrs Thatcher's second term. Never has a prime minister been better placed to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of public administration.

Keeping personal data private

From Mr Martin S. White

Sir, Sir Norman Lindop (March 26) has rightly pointed out a major deficiency in the Data Protection Bill currently being considered by Parliament - namely, clause 28. However, this is by no means the only weakness in the Bill.

Many companies hold databases for internal purposes only - for example, a pharmaceutical company will hold reports of clinical trials of its and competitors' drugs. Such databases contain personal data - the names of the authors of the reports - and therefore they would have to be registered under the current provisions of the Bill.

However, an organisation holding such a database would never pass the data on to a third party, as it would reveal that company's commercial interests; the database is for internal use only.

If the public were entitled to inspect their own entries in such databases insight would be gained into that company's commercial interests. This is clearly not at all satisfactory and will lead to companies deleting all such machine-readable records and converting them back to less efficient manual records.

The Institute of Information Scientists therefore believes that all databases which are used for internal purposes only should be exempted from the provisions of the Bill.

Our second objection concerns publicly available databases. Many organisations offer databases and databases for members of the public to search for a fee. Once again, the records in such public databases and databases often contain authors' names and should therefore, under the present provisions, be registered.

But if a member of the public wishes to see what has been said about himself or herself on that database or database it would be simpler and more efficient to search the database rather than go to a Data Protection Agency to inspect the record.

For pragmatic reasons, therefore, we believe that any owner of a database or database available to the public should not have to register under the Act.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN S. WHITE,
Chairman of Council,
The Institute of Information Scientists,
Harvest House,
62 London Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 29.

Rating legislation

From the Treasurer of Merseyside County Council

Sir, When Mrs Thatcher accepted that her 1970's pledge to abolish rating could not be achieved she replaced it by the twin proposals to restrict the rate-raising abilities of local government and to eradicate the metropolitan counties altogether.

Much parliamentary time is being spent on these two thorny proposals, which have jointly or severally been described as a threat to democracy, an over-centralisation of power, a charter for abolishing local authorities from responsibility and an example of ill-considered legislation which will not improve matters for ratepayers.

The amount which is paid in rates by an occupier of a property depends not just on the poundage levied by the local authorities but on the rateable value itself. Whilst the attention has been on how to keep rate poundages down, no attention has been paid to righting the distortions in rateable values.

These were last reviewed in 1973 and are not likely to be reviewed again until 1987. The changes in national prosperity which have occurred since 1973 are marked, as the recently published statistics which were reported in *The Times* the other day indicate.

Does this matter? Indeed it does, because it is the occupiers of inner-city properties who have suffered the most, for instance, a Liverpool office valued at a relation to one in Wrexham in 1973 is now worth 25 per cent less and yet the rates are still based on the 1973 relationship. It is no wonder that these city occupiers are complaining or disappearing altogether.

As for domestic properties, there is no legal requirement even to do a proper valuation, so that unfairness abounds. For example, a house selling for £60,000 in Cardiff is likely to have a rateable value which is half a similar-priced property in Manchester.

Since rating is not to be abolished Parliament should take the trouble to make it as fair an expenditure tax as possible, otherwise the belief that Government is not really interested in the ratepayers will gain ground.

Yours faithfully,
PETER JENKINS, Treasurer,
Merseyside County Council,
PO Box 95,
Metropolitan House,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
March 26.

Special pleading

From Mr Mark H. A. Bailey and Mr Jeremy D. Jenkins

Sir, Given the constant changes wrought in the law by the judiciary, and with Trinity Bn finals approaching like a trough of low pressure, we would be obliged if you would refrain from publishing any further Law Reports until 1pm, 1st June, 1984.

Yours faithfully,
MARK H. A. BAILEY,
JEREMY D. JENKINS (President,
Inner Temple Students' Association),
1 Hare Court,
Inner Temple, EC4,
March 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Benefits to UK of staying in CERN

From Professor P. T. Matthews, FRS, and Professor J. C. Taylor, FRS

Sir, The news that there is to be an enquiry into the benefits to the United Kingdom of remaining a member of CERN (report, March 23) has raised the question of what are the connections between particle physics and other branches of science.

Apart from the direct impact of the subject, particle physics experiments use techniques, for example in high vacuum, superconducting magnets, instrumentation and data analysis, that are at the very frontiers of technology, and our experimentalist colleagues will give many examples of the beneficial impact that they have on applied science.

However, as theorists we wish to underline the connections between our subject and other branches of theoretical physics.

Theoretical techniques developed for particle physics have had an important impact in many areas, notably condensed-matter physics, the theory of turbulent fluids and of wave propagation.

There have recently been major advances in gravitation theory and cosmology, which derive from a better understanding of the behaviour of fundamental particles and forces in the extreme conditions of the early universe and in intense gravitational fields.

The quark structure of matter now plays an important role in work in astrophysics and it is beginning to be important in nuclear-structure physics.

Contacts are, of course, not just in one direction, and work in cosmology, condensed-matter physics and other areas has had important impacts on particle physics. The abandoning of experiments in particle physics would in a very short time result in a sharp decline of related theoretical work in this country, which could only be to the general disadvantage of theoretical physics in the United Kingdom as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
P. T. MATTHEWS,
J. C. TAYLOR,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics,
Silver Street,
Cambridge,
March 30.

Defence management

From Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir William Dickson

Sir, Most of the views expressed by Field Marshal Lord Carver (March 23) on Mr Heseltine's proposals for the reorganisation of the Central Defence Staff will, in my opinion, be warmly endorsed by those who have had the unique experience of holding the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff.

One of the Secretary of State's concepts is to move the Naval, General and Air Staffs out of their Service organisations to form one combined staff under one military chief, the Chief of Defence Staff. Mr Heseltine apparently believes (report, March 13) that this concept is the same as those of Lords Mountbatten and Montgomery.

Mountbatten always had in mind his joint command in South-east Asia and thought that the Joint Defence Staff should be built up on that model. He may have had this in mind in his scheme for reorganisation in 1962, but in view of his strong feelings about the efficiency of the Royal Navy I cannot believe that he ever would have allowed it to be implemented to the extent of the disappearance of the First Sea Lord and the removal of the Naval Staff from the Admiralty, a staff which has been such a strength.

With regard to Lord Montgomery,

Public expenditure cuts

From the Director General of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors

Sir, Your editorial on public expenditure (March 24) is timely. It is deficient, only in that it fails to emphasize the point which you had previously made, that reductions in current spending are vitally necessary to allow room for increases in capital spending on infrastructure.

While the Prime Minister previously indicated her support for more capital investment, provided that it could be financed from savings on the current side, she now appears to have conceded a defeat in the battle against current spending and is merely talking about containing it rather than cutting it.

Worse than that, we have had a series of speeches from the Prime Minister, and from other members of the Cabinet, pointing out past public capital investment schemes that are judged to have been wasteful and thereby casting doubt on the value of all such schemes today. This, of course, entirely loses sight of the fact that even the most successful and entrepreneurial of companies occasionally backs losers and this is really no excuse for the loss of nerve for all investment programmes in the future.

The Prime Minister's argument then runs on to suggest that major investment programmes would really be far better left to the private sector. While this may be true, the Government does little or nothing to make it possible in practice and we would certainly wish to argue that, until such time as the Government has created the legal and fiscal framework necessary to make the switch to private capital possible, the responsibility for investment remains with the Government and they must continue to exercise it.

A further negative feature of the Government's strategy is that the Chancellor is clearly placing total emphasis on the need for future tax cuts and it seems clear that any

Not holding what we have in art

From Mr Kenneth Hudson

Sir, I am finding it increasingly difficult to understand the campaigns to prevent privately owned works of art from being sold to foreign museums or collectors. They appear to be based on no more worthy philosophy than that of what we have held.

Since the public purse is obviously not deep enough to buy all the choicest items which may come on the market, may I suggest that we confine our efforts in the future to those paintings, pieces of furniture or whatever which were produced in Britain? This would certainly not solve the problem completely, but we should at least have an aim which could be easily understood.

The root cause of all the trouble and muddle is the regrettably loose way in which the terms "heritage" and "national heritage" are used. Bach and Rembrandt are part of our cultural heritage, in the sense that they have belonged to my intellectual and emotional life for a great many years, but because I am not German or Dutch, they are not part of my heritage in the way that Constable, Stubbs or Sherraton are.

For this reason it is not important to me that Poussin's "Holy Family" should leave Chatsworth for Malibu, California, whereas I rejoice with Mr Timothy Clifford that George Stubbs' "Cheetah and Stag with Two Indians" should now hang safely on the walls of the Manchester Art Gallery.

I am miserable and angry when I see splendid Constables allowed to leave England for Yale. They belong here. The possible departure of Raphael drawings would not affect me in the same way.

I would fight very hard to keep what I conceive, perhaps wrongly, to be my heritage. I would not contribute a penny towards holding on to items which will be just as well looked after abroad and whose retention might be good for the prestige of particular art galleries, but for little else and which, anyway, we cannot afford.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH HUDSON,
Administrator, European Museum of the Year Award,
18 Lansdown Crescent,
Bath,
Avon,
March 22.

Information inflation

From Professor K. W. Patchett

Sir, Mr L. P. Shurman's protest (March 29) about the price of HMSO publications can be applied with equal force to primary legislation, especially Bills.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, now before the Commons, costs £7.50 for 115 pages (admittedly better value than the shorter Bill in the 1982/83 session, at £5.50 for 72 pages).

As a Bill may be seen as a document prepared principally for use in the legislature, a very substantial part of the cost of publication should surely be borne out of the parliamentary budget.

If members of the public are to monitor the progress of legislation and to have an opportunity to comment as Bills pass through the parliamentary processes, purchase of the various versions of a Bill and the printed amendments should not call for expenditure beyond the reach of the ordinary pocket.

If commercial considerations are to be relevant in making publicly available the laws which are to govern our society, perhaps those responsible for legislation should be concerned as a matter of course to provide a product which, for its use, conciseness and content is one which the public will find pleasure in owning!

Yours sincerely,
KEITH PATCHETT,
University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology,
Department of Law,
Cwm Drive,
Cardiff.

Prosecution service

From Lord Gardiner, C.H.

Sir, Credit where credit is due.

In her otherwise admirable report (March 29) on the Government's decision to legislate for a prosecution service independent of the police in England and Wales Ms Frances Gibb does not mention the fact that Justice, the independent, all-party organization of lawyers concerned to improve the administration of justice in England and Wales, has been pressing successive governments for this reform for 13 years, their report, *The Prosecution Process in England and Wales*, having been published in 1970.

Mr Heath's Government applied the Justice proposals to Northern Ireland, and, as I can testify as Chairman of the Gardner committee to oversee the security laws of Northern Ireland, their decision has been welcome and successful.

I hope that the Government will be equally responsive to the excellent recent reports of Justice particularly to their reports, *Justice in Prison* and *Compensation for Wrongful Imprisonment*.

Yours faithfully,
GARDINER,
House of Lords,
March 29.

The way we live now

From Mr G. M. Silverman

Sir, Leaving to one side the whole issue of masons, might I respectfully take issue with Mr Epstein (April 2) Judaism is a religion/belief and a way of life. If I choose not to adhere to Judaism then I am not a Jew.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. SILVERMAN,
11 High Street,
Barnet,
Hertfordshire,
April 2.

Going solo

From Mr Theodore Ruoff

Sir, The answer to Dr Ormerod's question (March 31) is that, beyond any peradventure, an Englishman's car is his personal sacred cow.

Yours faithfully,
THEODORE RUOFF,
Flat One,
83 South Hill Park, NW3.

● More micro finalists: Page 20

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Another home debut: Page 20

Hard thinking needed on software piracy

Copyright law is being urgently updated around the world as governments attempt to come to terms with the problems introduced with the advances of new technology. Video tape, audio recording equipment, cable television, satellite transmissions and computers have all created for the guardians of copyright a major legal and logistic headache.

The legal problem is in updating the legislation that has been used in the past to protect the creators of product carried on the more conventional media of paper, film and broadcasting. In Britain the Department of Trade and Industry and the experts of the Patent Office are slowly clarifying the Copyright Act of 1956, which has become quickly outdated through the pace of technological innovation. Thirty years ago home computers, video recorders and intercontinental television were barely a dream.

The logistics problems are equally acute since the timing of those legislative amendments are as important as the changes themselves. An example of that is the amendment which was quickly passed last year enabling the criminal penalties of video piracy to be stiffened. The Government could not afford to wait until it had revamped the Copyright Act before it was empowered to prosecute the video pirates. The amendments which are now being contemplated for the Cable and Broadcasting Bill also fall into that category.

The questions which have to be addressed are extremely complex and sometimes require new and clearer definitions of the subject matter to be protected.

In an ideal world the legislation would be ahead of the technology. However, in reality, the pace of the

legal world could hardly compare with that of the high technology sector.

Mr David Ladd, the United States Registrar of Copyrights, in a recent address to the International Publishers Association in Mexico City, emphasized the growing fears that exist among the world's publishers and authors.

He said: "As we approach the 21st century, a vast new array of technological innovations continues to test our understanding of authorship and our will to vindicate its value. Authors and publishers' rights become difficult to enforce as we move away from the print culture and confront a surge of space-age apparatus that enables the broad-based dissemination and simultaneous reception by huge audiences of almost 'unimaginable quantities of creative works'."

Those works in the past have been protected through the auspices of United Nations agencies by the signatories to the Berne Convention and the Universal Copyright Convention. They each have 76 member countries and are administered through the United Nations agencies UNESCO and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The latter has 106 member states and gives further protection to the creators of anything that can be more effectively deemed 'property of the mind'.

The protection afforded the members of these conventions depend on the individual states ensuring that the appropriate legislation is in place. Hence the governmental activity.

The new British Cable and Broadcasting Bill contains two clauses which reflect that new thinking. The first refers to cable. The cable operators will have the copyright to carry BBC and ITV programmes normally broadcast in their franchise area.

Or, as expected will frequently be the case, a cable operator in one area in Britain wishes to offer the programming of television stations outside his area, he will require copyright approval.

The second clause is addressed to the complex question of copyright on Direct Broadcast Satellites (DBS). The format of such a British service and who would operate it is still a matter of intense debate but the protective legislation will be in place before any such satellite will be launched. The earliest British one will be operational in 1987.

This second clause is meant to

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

ensure that the satellite broadcaster who sources the television material (that is sends it up to the satellite) has legal protection from anyone illegally receiving it and relaying it. Two amendments to be added to the Bill when it returns to the Commons will also ensure that the reception of such services by anyone with the intention of avoiding payment would be a criminal offence.

Mr John Butcher, junior industry minister highlighted software piracy when addressing the Computer Trade Association last month. The normal protection afforded the creators of computer software has become an acute problem in the UK with the spread of home computers.

Assuming the sales of home computers go according to the industry's optimistic forecasts, half the

homes in Britain will have computers by 1986. Such a level is unprecedented anywhere in the world. The copying of software, albeit just between friends, could prove extremely difficult to police. Hence the need for immediate clarification of the copyright law in this context.

The question of high technology copyright is one that is not new to government. A report by Justice Whitford in 1977 highlighted a number of areas and reviewed the entire question of photocopying, video and other principal electronic media.

A government Green Paper on copyright emerged in 1981, four years after the Whitford Report, and still there is insufficient legislation in place. The music publishing and film production groups have been lobbying government intensely for a levy on blank tape which is a method of compensating the relevant industries for revenue lost through direct piracy or 'friendly copying' of video and audio material. That method of control has not been endorsed by the government. West Germany, Sweden, Hungary and Norway however are among those nations which have adopted some levy system.

Copyright of high technology products remains a problem. The world is on the brink of international television and telecommunication, communication by satellite is becoming commonplace. Information and film that has in the past been transmitted by spacecraft and cable will now be vulnerable to breaches in the copyright law.

That is another major problem. Low powered satellites, as opposed to the high powered DBS variety, which are used extensively in telecommunication - both for telephony and intercontinental exchange of television

programmes between broadcasters - may prove the most difficult to protect under copyright law.

They will be used in the future by providers of television channels for cable networks and the material that they carry will need protection other than that afforded by DBS. The British are attempting to find a solution.

A "broad brush approach" would be ideal whereby legislation could be provided to cover all forms of high technology media.

According to David Ladd in his Mexico City address: "Because of technological innovation and its tempo, it is illusory to believe that we can deal with these technologies, piecemeal and one-by-one. Rather, copyright laws, must, if they are to cope, be crafted with the declarations of rights broad enough to encompass new technologies."

He added: "If copyright laws are to master, or even survive the onslaught of new technologies, they must be framed in broad terms to relate the various rights of which copyright is composed - reproduction, distribution, display and performance - so as to comprehend later unanticipated uses."

There can often be conflicts as was witnessed in the United States with a recent case brought against Sony for selling video recorders. Is the use of a video recorder by a television owner a breach of Copyright or as was argued, a convenience to the user who only wants a facility to watch a television programme which has already been transmitted and paid for by the viewer, at a time of his choosing.

Any copyright legislation must therefore reflect the rights both of the creators of the material being protected and those who wish to have the right to access it.

Welcome to the micro happy hour

The newsgroups and book-sellers W H Smith say a series of computer open evenings for customers is proving "successful beyond expectations." More than 1,000 people turned up for a two-hour evening session at an Exeter hotel, and there was a strong turnout at a second meeting in Kensington.

The idea of the evenings is to meet potential customers with some basic knowledge of computers in a less formal atmosphere than a shop. It seems to be working, besides the encouraging attendance the meetings are followed by orders - £2,000 in the case of Exeter, and in Kensington £4,500 in the first week.

Both hardware and software are demonstrated and free copies of specialist magazines distributed. Future events include some for local businessmen. Customers say they had previously delayed ordering because they only get to a shop on a Saturday when it is too busy for them to ask questions.

Tomorrow sees the start of the London Festival of Computing with open days, exhibitions and conferences taking place at a variety of locations around London. The festival lasts three weeks and includes such topics as computer education, networking, management and home computing. Further information can be obtained from 01 734 2907 or Prestel page 8008008.

A new software package aimed at the manufacturing industries has been launched by Hoskyns. MAS-Manufacturing is the fourth generation of such software that has been produced by the Hoskyns group, who have been selling manufacturing software for ten years. Using the package, the applications designer is able to solve specific business problems without worrying about the technical implementation. Mike Bratton, director of the manufacturing and commercial division that developed the package, says that with the advent of MAS-Manufacturing it is now possible for a customer to have a completely integrated system, using the MAS Financial system.

A simplified route to office automation is promised to users of Olivetti electronic typewriters, with the launch in Hanover this week of MultiNet. The new system, which is in effect a box containing 64K of RAM, allows the ETV300 machine to be used as a conventional micro word processor. Using a CP/M compatible operating system it will be supplied with electronic mail and communications facilities. It is marketed by WordNet, a company formed in 1982 by Richard Crown to sell the WordNet 2000 system, the precursor of the new machine.

With City backing of more than £1 million, a new chain of business



"Serious business use, eh?"

computer centres has opened its first outlet in Kingston, Surrey. Interface operating both as direct and franchise business, will deal with popular business PCs such as IBM, Hewlett Packard, DEC and TI. Interface has been set up by James Minotto, the ex-president of Computerland Europe, and Brian Allmeyer, previously managing director of one of the Computerland franchises.

Telegraph Canada is expanding its Teldin-based videotex service to offer daily price information on 5,000 stocks listed on six exchanges in Canada and the United States. The financial service, will allow subscribers to analyse the performance of the companies listed on the Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, New York and American stock exchanges with coloured graphics. MacLeod Young Sar, of Toronto, will supply and update the information including an evaluation of investment prospects for major Canadian stocks.

UK events

Computer Aided Design, Met. Exhibition Hall, today to Thur. Artificial Intelligence Seminar, City University, London, April 7-8. Sir Frederic Osborn School Computer Fair, Sir Frederic Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, April 8. Computers for Builders Exhibition, Cavendish Conference Centre, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1, April 12. Communications and Public Domain Software, Lancashire Country Council Cricket Club, Old Trafford, April 14. Computers in Instrumentation Exhibition, Earls Court, London SW5, April 16-18. London Computer Fair, Central Hall, Westminster, SW1, April 19, 21, 23. Personal Computer Games Show, Solihull Conference Centre, Birmingham, April 20-22. ZX Microfair, Alexandra Palace, London N22, April 28.

Overseas

Hanover Fair, Hanover, Germany, April 4-11. Videotex '84, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, April 16-18.

Compiled by Personal Computer News

Five work together for micro finals

John Adrian, aged 12, headed a group of five bright boys from Kelsey School, Beckenham, Kent, who won first prize in the South Home Counties region of The Times National Microcomputer Challenge competition.

They worked on their project - to help dyslexics - in their own time after school and on Saturdays. They sought expert advice on the problems faced by dyslexics before they began writing the software.

The school is well equipped with BBC and RML machines and was supportive throughout the project. Last month a team from the school, including some of the group, who are aged up to 15, won three prizes in a local computer competition.

On page 20 today we present another four of the ten regional winners who will compete in the national finals at the Holiday Inn, Marble Arch, on April 18 as part of the London Computer Festival.

The winner will receive a first prize of a full BBC microcomputer system including a BBC Micro model B, disc storage system, and either a 14-inch colour video monitor or a Sparkjet printer. Second prize is a £100 W H Smith voucher for computer goods and the third prize a £50 voucher.

Additionally, our cartoonist Harry New will be presenting original AGOG cartoons to the three winners.

The other winners: Page 20



The finalists (from left): Anwar Ali, Adam Tibbalds, John Adrian, Ian George, Simon Moss.

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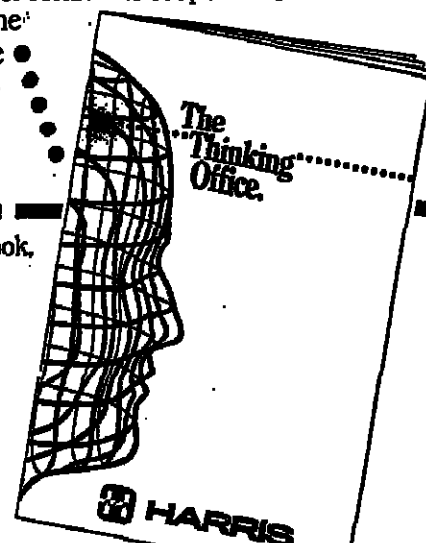
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Occidental's new data centre in Aberdeen provides computer services to support the company's UK and related offices. Two IBM 3083 processors running MVS/JES2 and ACF/VTAM multi-system networking have a network of hundreds of terminals connecting IMS and TSO users with these systems and other data centres in the Americas. Currently in installation testing stages, the data centre is scheduled to begin full production operations in early May.

Experienced IMS and MVS Systems Programmers are needed to install, maintain, monitor and troubleshoot this software. The MVS environment incorporates ACF2 security and UCC - 10 tape management systems. IMS use relies heavily on ADF and the system includes LOGPLUS and UCC-10 data dictionary.

In both areas senior people who can deal comfortably with operations, programming and user staff are essential to the ongoing satisfactory performance and operation of the systems. Technical opportunities are excellent in this up-to-date hardware/software environment. XA planning and migration, DB2 and additional on-line systems are outlooked for next year.

Successful candidates will command a starting salary of between £15-18,000 depending on experience, and an excellent range of benefits, including a full relocation package to facilitate your move to this highly attractive part of the country.

If you are interested in a position with Occidental telephone for further information and an application form.

Telephone Aberdeen (0224) 644838
Tuesday 3rd April 1200 to 1400 or 1800 to 2000 hrs.

If you prefer write to:
George Fowler,
Personnel Officer.



Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Limited,
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SOUTH AFRICA COASTAL LOCATIONS SENIOR COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

for non-financial packages on large Burroughs installation. Min. 1 year contracts with interesting package deal. Interviews London 4-12th April 1984, or 12. Technical Services Ltd, 811 High Road, London, N12 8JW. Tel: 01-445 0022.

KEY MARKETING & SALES APPOINTMENTS

MICROCOMPUTERS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Comart Computers are the leading British manufacturer of modular microcomputer systems in the £2-10k range. Launched in 1980, the 'Communicator' range has become a world leader in its class and has enabled Comart to head the ICC growth league of computer equipment manufacturers. Formed in 1977, the Comart Group of Companies now employs over 200 people nationwide. In planning the next phase of their expansion, which includes exciting new model launches and further development both UK and overseas, Comart are seeking ambitious, hardworking professionals for the following key posts:

EXPORT SALES MANAGER c. £25k PLUS 2 LITRE CAR

A challenging opportunity for a high calibre sales professional with at least 3 years export experience in the computer or other high technology industry. This vital role will suit a self motivated achiever who can work on his own initiative seeking out new business opportunities overseas and maximising the export potential of the company's products. There will be a requirement to liaise with subsidiary companies overseas but more important will be establishing and managing distributors in W. Europe, Africa, Middle East and USA. Candidates must be articulate, speak at least one foreign language fluently and be prepared to spend a major part of their time travelling. Salary package includes £15-17k basic, plus commission to on target earnings of £23-27k plus 2 litre car.

DEALER/OEM SALES MANAGER c. £25k PLUS 2 LITRE CAR

Senior Management opportunity for a person who can display a proven sales track record with at least two years as a Dealer Sales Manager in the computer or other high technology industry. The successful applicant, probably in the 30-40 age range, will be responsible for strengthening our dealer and OEM network. This involves maintaining our existing portfolio of prestigious accounts as well as identifying and developing new business prospects. The sales manager will control a team of three Sales Executives and will need to be able to set sales objectives and provide sufficient motivation to ensure that these are achieved. Salary package includes £15-17k basic, plus commission to on target earnings of £23-27k plus 2 litre car.

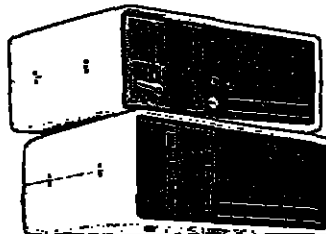
PRODUCT MARKETING EXECUTIVE c. £12-14k

This is a key position for someone with a comprehensive knowledge of microcomputer technology allied to a keen appreciation of the microcomputer market place. The successful applicant, aged between 25-35, will be required to carry out regular analyses of market trends including monitoring competitive activity, prepare business plans and liaise with R&D regarding the requirement and specification of new products. The job calls for someone with vision who has the necessary tact and resilience to follow new development projects through to completion.

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES, OF ENGLAND c. £20k PLUS CAR

Enthusiastic and professional Senior Sales Executive, aged 25-40, required to take over and expand a strong customer base of dealer and OEM accounts in the key South of England area. Candidates will ideally be based in the south, be familiar with hardware and software technologies and have a minimum of two years experience of selling to dealer and OEM accounts. You will be part of a small dynamic team, but it is essential that applicants be self motivated and capable of working on their own initiative. Salary package includes £10-15k basic, plus commission to on target earnings of £20-25k plus car.

Attractive big company benefits in all instances include pension and profit sharing schemes.



comart

Telephone June Hamilton or Helen Wilson on 0480 215005 (24hr Answering) if you would like further details and an information pack or, if you prefer, write and tell us about yourself enclosing a short CV addressing your letter to:

June Hamilton, Comart Computers Limited,
Little Edd Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 3JG.

A member of the Comart Group of Companies

IBM SYSTEM 38/MAAPICS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

W M STILL & SONS LIMITED is an expanding Company based in Hastings, East Sussex who Manufacture and Service Catering Equipment. An opportunity has arisen for an additional Analyst/Programmer with knowledge of the manufacturing side of System 38/MAAPICS. He or she should have experience of implementing MRP and of programming in RPG III. Salary will depend on ability and experience but is negotiable. Relocation expenses will be paid where necessary.

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to:

HUGH F WYLIE,
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR,
W M STILL & SONS
LIMITED,
FELLOWS ROAD,
HASTINGS,
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Tel: (0424) 432121.

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offers
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DISC INTERNATIONAL has recently been formed as an independent company to develop and market advanced videotex systems internationally. We have already made a successful entry into the U.K. market with our Viewbase product, based on PICK machines. We now have tremendous growth opportunities both in the U.K. and overseas and are interested in attracting high calibre staff for outstanding career prospects. We specifically require:

PROGRAMMING / SOFTWARE SPECIALISTS who are innovative, respond to challenge and are motivated by problem solving in systems software and communications. Demonstrable skills in software development and/or a knowledge of videotex technology and/or familiarity with the PICK operating systems are highly desirable.

PROJECT CONSULTANTS with manifestly relevant experience as systems analysts and who are able to assume project management roles. Some staff with particular competence in project management, marketing of software systems and with relevant technological expertise will also be required for secondment to our subsidiary in the U.S.A.

Remuneration is unlikely to deter the best candidates; generous terms and conditions are offered, including possible share participation in the Company.

If you qualify and are interested, please write to J.R. Wrightson, Personnel Adviser, DISC International Limited, Bedford House, Park Street, TAUNTON TA1 4DB, Somerset.

Small software company with jumbo sized load requires 'Soft Seller'

We are not looking for a thick-skinned, hard nosed, 'typical' salesman to blow his trumpet for us.

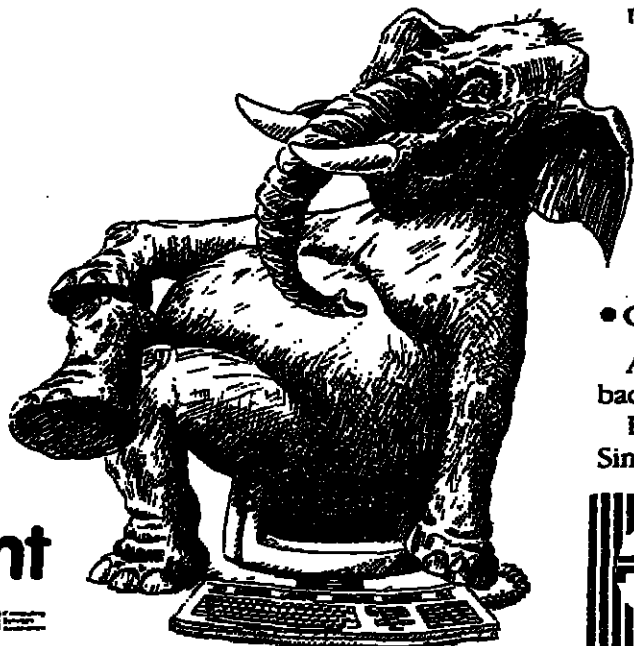
Instead we require a person with a general knowledge of computers (without necessarily a detailed technical background) and the social charm and wit to present us to a wide range of potential users (from local government officials to small businessmen). A strong accounting background and the ability to envisage solutions to our client's problems and communicate them effectively to our technical staff will be needed - in short, we provide the back-up and now need a 'soft seller'.

PME is a Wang-based software house working in a highly specialised field. Demand for our services has shown that, although we have a small staff, we are not considered insignificant. We have reached a point where we need to expand and are looking for a person who would like their career to grow with us.

- The basic salary on offer is £12,000 (O/T £30,000)
- A quality car will be provided.
- Guaranteed leads.

And all the successful applicant needs is an accountancy background with bags of charm and wit.

For an early interview telephone our recruitment consultant, Simon Koning or write to him at the London address.



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Computer Appointments

£8K-£15K Logica

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Continued market growth for RAPPORT, the UK's leading Relational Database System, has created new opportunities for designer/programmers and support consultants at all levels. Age can be from early twenties to mid thirties and salaries will range from £8K to £15K or more.

Software Designers/Systems Programmers
to design and develop new database products

- Good FORTRAN
- Operating system experience
- High level language experience desirable

Microcomputer Designers/Programmers
to tailor database products for micros

- Two years micro experience
- Knowledge of CPM/86 or MSDOS or UNIX
- Good FORTRAN

Support Consultants

to advise clients and support sales

- Experience of database systems
- Technical programming background
- Good interpersonal skills

Location: Central London. Generous benefits package. Relocation costs paid where necessary.

If you are ambitious, bright (preferably a graduate) with relevant experience, write or call AGB Recruitment on 01-235 9891 for more details.

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Computer Appointments continue
on pages 20 and 30

People/Bernard Beech of Omicron

Success of the lonely keyboard pounder

By Roger Woolnough

Browsing in W. H. Smiths in Stafford in the late seventies, Bernard Beech came across one of the first microcomputer magazines. A professional programmer who had always worked with IBM mainframes, Beech was intrigued.

He was even more intrigued when he spotted an advertisement for sales ledger software costing £50. Beech's employers marketed a sales ledger package for £15,000, and he sent off a cheque to find out what was going on.

"All I got for my money was a program listing," he recalls, "and a list of machines I had never heard of. I decided to have a look at a microcomputer."

Bernard Beech is now one of the team running Omicron Management Software, which had sales of £1.75m in 1983, and could reach £2.5m this year. But between that chance encounter with a magazine and today's success there has been a lot of lonely pounding of the keyboard.

Management

At school, Beech spent most of his fifth year on the rugby field and playing in a pop group. With only a few O-levels, he became a professional musician for a few months until the pop scene palled. Then he applied for a job in local government, and found himself working with computers.

By the time he wrote off for the £50 package, Beech was perhaps subconsciously seeking something new. After several years working his way up the programming ladder, he had



reached a management position with a company part-owned by RTZ Computer Services.

A programmer at heart, he was getting "a bit fed up at no longer doing things himself. He borrowed a microcomputer and used it in his spare time. "When I looked at the software, I found much of it very bad", he says. "I felt I could do it better."

The opportunity came for him to leave his job, and rather than look for another he spent the next 15 months writing programs for micros, starting with payroll and sales ledger. He had no idea of how to set about selling them.

Another chance encounter solved the problem. At an exhibition, Beech met Ron Sandford, a former RTZ colleague. Discussions soon involved another RTZ man, Vince Wells, and before long Omicron was formed. Wells and Sandford look after the management side in London, and Beech runs a team of programmers from his home county of Shropshire.

More flexible

One thing that gives Omicron's software an unusual character is something called "parameterization". This comes directly from Beech's mainframe background, where it is a standard technique.

Parameterized software may be more complex to set up, but running the computer will be easier and more flexible. Omicron has 50 dealers who look after installation.

Beech feels that parameterization gives Omicron an edge over the competition, but he is far from complacent. "You have to keep looking over your shoulder. That's why we are investing a lot of money in new development, particularly for the multi-user marketplace."

That investment will yield something much more valuable than Bernard Beech received for his original £50, but he still feels it was money well spent. "If I hadn't picked up that magazine," he admits, "I would probably still be running mainframes."

Phone call access to worldwide business

By Frank Brown

A computer-based information service which could help boost British exports has been launched by the Thorn-EMI company Datasolve. World Exporter offers subscribers constantly updated information on major business opportunities around the world, and on the business, financial, economic and political backgrounds to countries in which the opportunities occur.

It alerts subscribers to potential business abroad, and enables immediate research on opportunities that interest them, the computer-aided search facilities saving a considerable amount of time. "What would normally take hours or days by other means, can be achieved in minutes," said Peter Crossley, Datasolve's manager of electronic publishing.

Like other computerized information systems, World Exporter is accessed via telephone, using any suitable desktop terminal or personal computer, and a modem. The user simply dials Datasolve's computer centre at Sunbury-on-Thames, enters a password, and selects the required facilities.

World Exporter's file on international business opportunities is drawn from the fortnightly IGA publication *Plans and Projects Monitor* which provides data on new multi-million dollar projects throughout the world together with feasibility contracts and national economic plans.

When full-scale operations start in May, the file will contain information on more than 1,000 projects going back to February, 1983.

The new service's file of

background information contains some 100 million words of news and market intelligence going back two years, constantly updated. It is provided by Datasolve's existing "World Reporter" service which offers a full text of the BBC's summary of world broadcasts and external services news, *The Economist*, *Associated Press*, *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*.

Information in both files can be retrieved and displayed by country, procurement agency, type of project, or by any other desired classification.

A year's subscription to *World Exporter* costs £3,600 - "equivalent to half a secretary," Crossley commented - and allows unlimited use of the plans and projects monitor file, plus ten hours' use of the background information files.

How to lure the high-tech people back to the city

By Robin Bradbeer and Adrian Woods

The main problem of any new high technology company wanting to set up in an inner city area is finding some of the highly-qualified people required to work in it. The movement towards what is described as "urban drift" has meant that many such people frequently want to live outside city areas.

Even where rate and rent relief are promised by inner city boroughs it cannot often match the attraction of greenfield sites in Berkshire or Strathclyde especially when development area finance is also available.

Islington, for example, has two higher education institutions, the City University and the Polytechnic of North London and yet there is still a problem in keeping graduate engineers in the area.

This was of particular interest to Islington Council who, in 1981, noticed that the number of computer and information technology companies in its area was increasing rapidly. Within six months, the number of companies discovered had grown to more than 100 out of a total of 420.

One particular feature of the high-technology industry in the borough has been the involvement of the Polytechnic of North London, which has developed the North London Computer Club and a community computer centre for adults and small businesses.

Now some five years old these activities have been copied in many other parts of the country, the community computer centre being used as the basis of the NCC's Micro-Systems Centres.

At the instigation of the North London Computer Club, now the largest in Europe, the various computer clubs in London came together in 1979 to hold an exhibition of

machines, software and activities devoted to hobbyists. After three years this proved successful enough to be transformed to the central Hall Westminster, and is now the London Computer Fair.

Other activities associated with it, including an education and computing conference, became the foundation of the London Festival of Computing. The 1984 Festival, which starts tomorrow has the first trade Association Fair as its activity.

North London Polytechnic has also conducted a survey which looked at 51 microelectronic and information technology firms in the summer of 1983. The object of the survey amongst other things was to ascertain the employment potential of such firms.

From the survey a picture emerged of the typical firm being relatively new to Islington, although there were a few notable exceptions. Nearly 60% of the firms had been established on their present site.

At the time of the survey some firms were advertising for staff and a significant number, 39, reported difficulty in filling vacancies when they did arise. Although some jobs required a

high level of educational attainment many firms, 26, said that they could train up people with no qualifications within one year.

With more than 160 companies now established in the borough and involved with information and technology, something like 800 jobs per year could be created if the average job increase indicated in the survey were repeated throughout the industry. This would more than compensate for job losses in other, older, industries.

It is possible for a multi million pound operation to take place on one floor of an office block, even if "product" is going out of the door. One of the more interesting suggestions was that some of the million square feet of empty office space in the borough be redesignated light industrial.

At the moment new high technology companies are having to use old, industrial premises due to the lack of new, small and cheap units.

Robin Bradbeer is an independent computer consultant. Dr Woods is principal lecturer in business studies at the North London Polytechnic.

Hi-Tek: where our future is yours...

4 Data General FACIT 2 Hewlett Packard 2 National Semiconductor TORCH Zilog

One of the reasons why Hi-Tek Distribution of Cambridge is such a success story is the sheer quality of its staff. Apart from having unusually high technical qualifications, this team has created a really dynamic working environment.

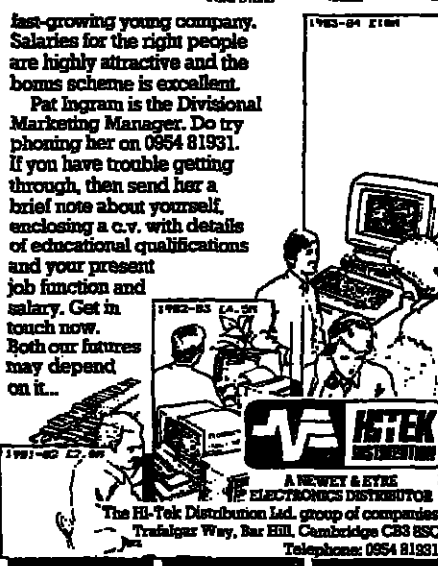
As you may imagine, Hi-Tek is always looking for more of the right kind of people but the exciting jobs below are within "Hi-Tek Solutions", a new department dedicated to provide computer systems nationwide, primarily to our industrial customer base.

Marketing
You will be in charge of one of Hi-Tek's "covered" franchises, responsible directly to the Divisional Marketing Manager for its profitability and to the internal and external staff for their motivation and technical support. You will be given a

relatively free hand within a strong marketing policy and quite frankly, the sky's the limit for your prospects.

Technical Support
You will be the technical interface with our customers needs and become able to cope with a range of operating systems and applications software. You will also probably have a good general understanding of electronics.

These jobs are Cambridge-based, so we will pay your relocation expenses if necessary. You will benefit from all the advantages of working within a major organisation - BUPA membership, a company car and an excellent pension scheme, plus the thrill of working for a very dynamic, fast-growing young company. Salaries for the right people are highly attractive and the bonus scheme is excellent. For Ingram is the Divisional Marketing Manager. Do try phoning her on 0954 81391. If you have trouble getting through, then send her a brief note about yourself, enclosing a c.v. with details of educational qualifications and your present job function and salary. Get in touch now. Both our futures may depend on it.



Software Engineers

...aiming for new horizons

Bath

Expertise in software development is the key to our impressive client portfolio. To sustain our rapid business growth, we need to expand the present, highly-motivated team at Praxis.

The talent we are looking for is rare - an ability to combine technical and intellectual skills with a sound commercial appreciation of our clients' needs. If you have that talent, you'll have every opportunity to make a real contribution in a demanding environment. You will also share in our success.

The scope is limitless. Our variety of projects and use of advanced analysis and design techniques will more than satisfy your professional enthusiasm and stretch your skills to new achievements in this fast changing science. Compiler and Database projects, formal design methods such as VDM, JSP, SADT, SSADM and

languages including Algol 68, Pascal, C and Prolog are a few examples. The immediate benefits are attractive, with salaries ranging from £8,000 to £14,000 and beyond, plus profit sharing. In the longer term the potential rewards are as exciting as the technology in which we work. If you have at least 3 years' software development experience, possibly in a project/team leader role, ideally a good computer science degree and the ambition to be part of a successful, professional team, please David Bean or Martin Thomas on Bath (0225) 335855 during business hours or in the evening on Fauland (0373 87) 210. Alternatively write to us with CV at Praxis Systems Limited, 6/7 Trim Street, Bath BA1 1HS.

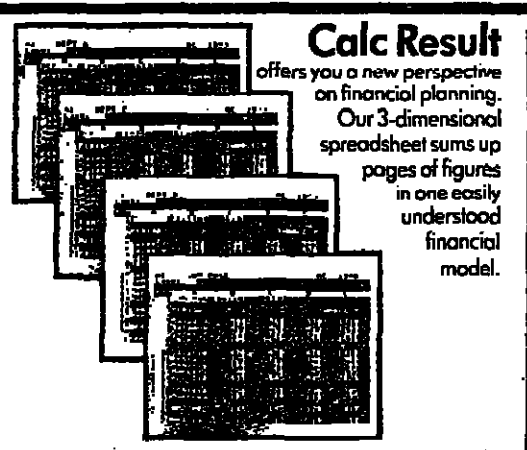
PRAXIS
Setting standards in software

Now the Commodore 64 means business

The Game's over. Wouldn't you like to increase the application potential of your Commodore 64? Transform it from a fun family computer into a truly professional tool? Now - thanks to Handle, the world's largest creator of Commodore software - you can give a powerful new dimension to your 64's performance. We have pioneered a new program called **CALC RESULT** that dramatically expands the financial planning potential of your Commodore.

Doctors, Dentists, Lawyers, Bankers, Brokers and other money managers exploit it to keep track of complex client accounts. Builders, Garage Owners, Retailers of all sizes, and

descriptions now use the spread sheet formula for instant feedback and analysis of trading results. In a world where ease of access and speed of assessment are essential, **CALC RESULT** gives everyone the power to harness the untapped potential of their Commodore. **CALC RESULT** is versatile... use it to calculate loan and mortgage payments, forecast budgets, balance cash flow, monitor stocks and shares, plan personal and corporate taxation, check expenses, log and analyse all kinds of bills. **CALC RESULT** instantly translates figures into multi-coloured bar charts. It has a built-in "HELP" function and is absolutely accident proof.



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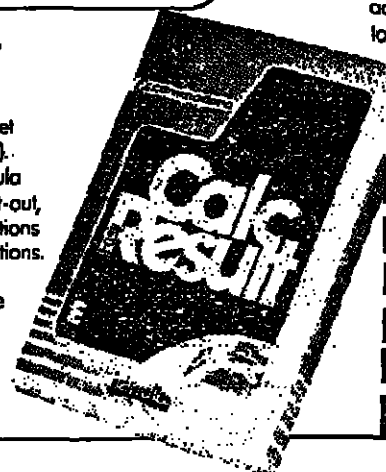
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Thinking ahead

COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

DIRECTOR

for Interactive Video Support Service

As the national organisation responsible for promoting the application and development of educational technology, CET has a close interest in interactive video. The combination of video, computing and publishing techniques provides the basis for an important new educational tool with unique characteristics.

To encourage the sensible introduction of this new technology in education and training CET is establishing an Interactive Video Support Service. The Service will be aimed at users and producers of interactive video and act as a focal point for information, advice and expertise. The Service will promote awareness of interactive video and provide a range of information services including demonstrations of equipment and materials. It will host a User Forum and organise training courses and seminars.

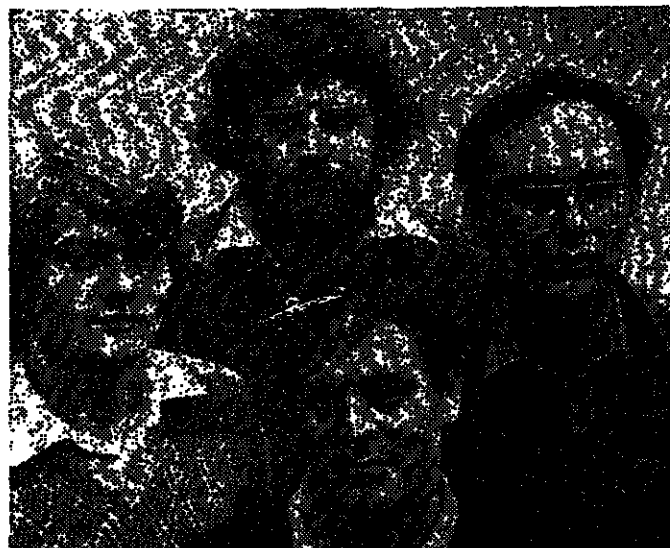
A Director is required who will be responsible for setting up and managing the Service. We are looking for somebody who can work independently to achieve results, and is able to communicate effectively with teacher trainers and policy makers throughout education and industry. He/she should have an understanding of the needs of education and training and be familiar with the design of learning systems. Experience with some aspects of interactive video would be helpful.

The post will be based in Central London. A 2 year contract will be offered with a salary of £16,000 pa. Secondment would be considered for this exciting and challenging post. For further details write to the Office Manager, CET, 3 Devonshire Street, London, W1N 2BA.

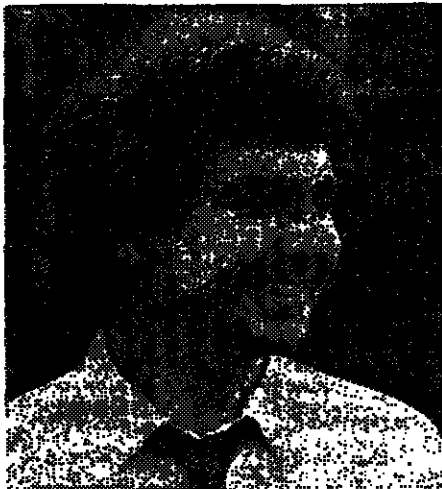
Closing date: 24th April.

Focus on the finalists of our micro challenge

Four more of the regional winners who will be competing in London on April 18 for the national prizes



WILLIAM DAWSON heads a group that won The Times Micro Challenge prize in the North East region. Their proposal, for a package to teach sign language, uses skills from computer programmes designers, video technicians and graphics artists. After training in fine art, William is now involved in a project, funded by the MSC, designing a dictionary of sign language. He has taken this with the team to produce prototype versions for computer and video, working with staff and pupils of Beverley School for the Deaf in Middlesbrough. He has studied computers in evening classes for a year, and at the end of this project, would like to find a career in computing.



ROBERT COLLINS won first prize in the Midlands with his work for learning aids for retarded children. He is a final year student at Keele, where he is taking a physics/computing course, and is working on his entry as his final project. He became involved in computing while at school, studying design technology at A level, designing aids for the physically disabled.



ROBERT BEATTIE, a sixteen-year-old student of Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, represented a group which won the first prize in the Scottish region. The entry, using computer graphics linked with video, is to act as a reading aid. Using a Commodore 64 at home, teaching himself PASCAL and machine code, Robert and his group have been working on the project since last year.



R. W. WILLIS-SANDFORD won the Greater London region prize with his proposal for a micro to help the neighbourhood policeman. Initial police response, although at a local, unofficial level, has been enthusiastic, with exciting possibilities for increasing such things as the local neighbourhood watch schemes. He is closely involved with computers in his job as a salesman for IBM.

More details next week about the final judging on April 18 at the Holiday Inn, Marble Arch.

Another debut on the home micro front

By Simon Craven
Next week will see the announcement of yet another entry into the already crowded home computer marketplace by Amstrad, the newly formed computer division of Amstrad, the British consumer electronics group.

The new computer, named the CPC464, draws heavily on Amstrad's experiences in sound equipment. Their pre-eminence in tower system hi-fi is reflected in the decision to produce the micro as an integrated system, with keyboard, processor, cassette recorder and monitor all in one box.

The advantages of this approach for first-time micro buyers is that there will be none of the compatibility problems so often experienced by the

computer industry and its users. Reliability is also likely to be a strong point, as the elimination of many plugs and sockets from the system removes one of the most common causes for trouble. Pricing is keen at £200 for the 64K computer with cassette recorder and monochrome monitor. Those wishing to take advantage of the Amstrad's colour display capabilities will have to spend an additional £100 for the version with a colour monitor built in.

Amstrad has won a sizable chunk of the British hi-fi market with its policy of aggressive marketing, though the company would be the first to agree that advanced technological sophistication is rarely a selling point in its products.

Off-the-shelf technology is used wherever possible in the

CPC464, the eight-bit Z80 processor at the heart of the new machine being the Ford Cortina of the computer industry.

This integrated approach to some computers is not completely new. One of the most recent companies to attempt this approach was another in the field of consumer electronics Sharp. Its offerings have never been very well received by the micro-buying public in this country, and its latest, the Sharp MZ700 abandons the philosophy of including an integrated monitor.

When the forthcoming Amstrad campaign differs from Sharp's is in the level of pricing. If the current price tags are maintained when the machine actually arrives in the shops in reasonable numbers, the units will be extremely competitive.

The best-selling Commodore 64 with cassette unit and a portable black and white television would cost around £300, with the addition of colour taking it over the £400 barrier.

The main obstacle facing Amstrad is likely to be the technical conservatism which has served it so well in the past. With machines such as the Sinclair Quantum Leap micro offering extreme sophistication at the £400 level, though delivery problems are characteristically severe, it is possible that the independent software suppliers will force a longer life for their products if they support the advanced 16-bit processors now arriving. Without large-scale software support, no new computer can hope to thrive.

Italy plans protection on personal information

From John Earle, Rome

The Italian cabinet has approved a Bill to regulate for the first time the gathering and storage of personal information about citizens in data banks. A statement from the Prime Minister's office says the Bill is designed to protect the citizen's privacy and personal freedom in the face of the power of informatics. Once it has passed through parliament, Italian legislation will, it is claimed, be one of the most advanced.

Ministers office to be established under a magistrate for this purpose.

It will be forbidden to gather and process various kinds of information about a person except with his consent or in the legitimate pursuit of journalistic activities. Such information covers his or her religious belief, racial origin, political opinions, membership of political parties, trade unions, or other associations.

Terms of imprisonment are foreseen for violating these provisions, because the government believes the financial resources of most organizations operating data banks to be such as to render fines ineffective.

Computer Appointments

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

Required at NATO HQ Allied Forces, Southern Europe

Essential qualifications: Must be a graduate Engineer or possess equivalent qualifications and must have at least 5 years' experience in satellite communications or in the maintenance and operations of microwave radio relay systems and FDM multiplex equipment tropospheric forward scatter communications and/or radar techniques. A fundamental knowledge of digital technique is required. Attendance at a SATCOM Engineer formal training course at NATO Communications School, Latina is mandatory. Must be a British citizen.

Desirable qualifications: Experience in Digital Communications Systems.

Duty Station: Gibraltar.

Salary and allowances: exempt from taxation.

Candidates must submit written curriculum (in English) not later than 30th April, 1984, to: Civilian Personnel Branch, Panda Division, Headquarters AFSouth, 80125 Bagoli, Naples, Italy. Telephone: (081) 721-2223.

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COMPUTER PERSONNEL VACANCIES

IBM COBOL PROG. Middle.

Due to rapid growth within the Data Processing Department of a major IBM user, several vacancies have arisen for IBM COBOL Programmers. Successful candidates will be working on a wide variety of applications including a large Order Entry system. Rapid promotions, leading to management are envisaged, for candidates showing the right potential. Applicants should have upwards of 2 yrs IBM COBOL experience with preferably knowledge of IMS DB/DC. The position for extensive training complements a generous benefits package that includes: BUPA, substantial relocation costs, pensions scheme and excellent sports and social facilities. REF TP 7953.

GRADUATE ANAL/PROGS, London

Graduates with a degree in any discipline and upwards of 18 months experience of programming and/or analysis, are required by this leading international consultancy. Areas of particular interest are IBM mainframes (COBOL, PL/I or Assembler), IBM minis (RPG, I/O), Hewlett Packard, Data General, and Tandem. However, applicants with experience of any other hardware/software will also be of interest. Successful applicants will be working on a wide variety of hardware, software and applications (banking, financial, commercial and manufacturing) for which comprehensive training will be given. The positions are both demanding and rewarding and applicants will, although not immediately, have the option of working in a variety of locations, including overseas. REF TM 5748.

CONSULTANT - OFFICE AUTOMATION, C. London

An international information systems consultancy requires further Consultants to work within their recently established Office Automation Division. Successful applicants will become involved with long term planning, requirements analysis, installation management, product selection, technical evaluation and many other areas within this new and rapidly advancing field. The company requires applicants to have previous experience from within Office Automation and be able to communicate to users from office to boardroom level. The company offers a very good salary combined with the opportunity to work at the forefront of this expanding discipline. REF TJ 7920.

PROGS - SEN PROGS, SYS DES BUS ANAL Herts.

A national service company based in Hemel Hempstead are looking to recruit several staff to join their D.P. department. Vacancies exist for Programmers, Senior Programmers, Systems Designers and Business Analysts. Programmers should have at least 2 yrs experience of ICL/VME/COBOL with TPMS, IDMS or DRIS a distinct advantage. Systems Designers would be required to have 2 yrs practical experience of systems design or VME 2300. Business Analysts should ideally have gained experience from within an insurance, finance, travel or retail systems environment. In addition to a competitive salary, excellent fringe benefits accompany this post including: relocation where appropriate, sick pay, pension scheme, staff restaurant and normal holidays. REF TT 7928.

£10K - £14K+

LECTURERS City

A highly successful and expanding D.P. Training Centre wishes to recruit eight Lecturers to provide comprehensive training courses in Programming and Analysis. The courses are intensive varying from 3 days to 5 weeks and are geared towards the commercial environment. Teaching exp. is not required but applicants should have the appropriate communication and personal skills. Exp. should include other commercial analysis exp. gained in a mainstream environment. 2500 Cobol programming exp. including knowledge of SCL and DMS or IBM mainframe exp. including general design work and knowledge of COBOL. The successful applicants will develop their own expertise through organized courses and visits to manufacturers and companies. Courses take place either on-site or customer premises and may include up to 8 weeks UK travel. Company benefits include profit sharing scheme, BUPA and Rediffusion. REF TA 7963.

TANDEM (BANKING) City

An established and expanding software house dealing exclusively with Tandem hardware have 5-7 vacancies open for Programmers (COBOL/TAL) and Analysts/Programmers. Their London clients are City-based, and operate in the financial sector. Consequently, it would provide an excellent opportunity for those working in the commercial sector to move into banking, and those with prior banking experience to consolidate their experience in a variety of different installations. Successful applicants will have the option of short spots (up to a week) working in Paris, Zurich, or North America. Salary and conditions are excellent, with a car offered with senior positions. REF TM 7965.

ANAL/PROG (USER INFORMATION) Middle.

This progressive IBM user based in Middlesex are setting up a User Information Centre. They wish to recruit a person who will be working as an Analyst/Programmer but will be instrumental in the overall running, decision making and direction of the user information Centre. The company currently uses IBM 3083, 4380's, 3107's and various PCs. Applicants should have experience of IBM mainframes, databases and minis with preferably APL and/or other 4th generation type languages. Obviously this position is of great importance with a clear path into management in the very near future. Excellent benefits are offered including a company car and European travel. REF TS 7006.

PRODUCT DES, PRODUCT SUPPORT Berks

Product Designers and Product Support people are required by a company involved in the specification development and support of a software/hardware package for the travel industry. For the Product Designer vacancy, applicants should have 4 yrs exp. developing software packages for minis and/or micros, prof. with a mixture of development and testing responsibilities. Micro Cobol (or other min/micro based Cobol) exp. would be an advantage. The Support position requires someone experienced in the support of interactive software packages for minis or micros and is able to show an ability to analyse and solve customer problems. Any applicants with exp. of Travel, Airline Reservation or View Data systems, will also be of interest. As part of a major group, the company offers normal large company benefits including pension scheme, medical ins. and poss. relocation. REF TA 7940.

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مكتبة الأصيل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Kleinwort buys the first link in a new chain

Yesterday, merchant bankers Kleinwort, Benson confirmed *The Times* story last week that it was negotiating to take over an American firm of brokers. Kleinwort is paying £19m for a primary dealer in United States government securities, ACLI Government Securities Inc. (AGS), a subsidiary of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Inc. The London bank thus joins a select group of 37 firms that can deal direct with the US Federal Reserve. It is the first overseas company to have complete control of such a firm; three other overseas companies have similar interests but those are minority or indirect.

Kleinwort's remarkable coup gives it the clout to compete effectively in the "new" London market now developing before our very eyes. It will be in direct competition with Samuel Montagu-Greene in becoming a major force in the British government securities market. That market is expected to follow the American pattern. The Bank of England will continue to direct gilt sales through the Stock Exchange but the Treasury Bill market will remain outside.

The number of broker-dealers dealing direct with the Bank will increase and their financial weight will be such as to allow the Treasury to increase the size of gilt edged issues above the common £1,000m level. The broker-dealer will become market makers in gilt-edged stock, with an international distribution network to sell gilts world-wide.

London institutions are already offered United States government securities and as communications technology advances, British, American and Japanese government debt will be dealt on a 24-hour basis. With that end in view, the Bank of England has pushed the Stock Exchange into all-inclusive corporate membership of the Exchange to Japanese and American firms far sooner than the Stock Exchange itself has planned.

This process of forcing the Stock Exchange to accept change at a faster pace than it wants will continue. It is already apparent that the more dynamic firms see recent changes relating to International Dealerships, negotiated commissions and market structures as outdated before the ink is dry.

In the world of real time prices on television screens (a deal can be struck faster between London and New York, in bonds, than between London and Birmingham) restricted ID's may be a stepping stone that sinks under the first step.

Kleinwort obviously saw the way-the-wind-blows and is acting accordingly. It has a strong reputation for corporate finance activity so it will be well placed to block trade in equities. The days when multinationals make a rights issue are numbered. They will choose instead multi-million share placements auctions.

Kleinwort is moving fast into the market in interest-rate-swaps. It intends beefing up KB International in New York which acts as fund manager for US institutions investing in non-US markets. Mr John Howland Jackson, director in charge of Kleinwort's international capital markets division, also admits that the bank needs a strong distribution connection in London. It will need too direct access to the Stock Exchange.

Few serious options remain open. Given Kleinwort's preference for debt security trading a link with one of four Stock Exchange firms strong in gilts would serve the purpose; they are Pender & Boyle, Mullens, Nivison and Laurie Millbank. A tie with a discount house would also make sense.

Inside story for Sealink's suitors

The auctioning of Sealink, British Rail's ferry and ports subsidiary, is now entering the second phase. Morgan Grenfell, BR's advisers, will today send out a 50-page memorandum of information about the company to the dozen or so companies which have expressed serious interest in bidding. The target date for completing the sale has been provisionally set for the end of June.

All the most likely bidders have said they are interested. They include Trafalgar House, P & O, Sea Containers, European Ferries and the National Freight/Sealink management bidding consortium. British Rail is insisting, with Government approval, that it will only sell Sealink in one piece and that it will take into account what the prospective purchasers intend to offer employees in the way of employment conditions and share options.

The remaining bidders now have a few weeks to prove whether they really are serious suitors for Sealink, or are just using the auction as a cover for winking out some useful information about a key rival in the cross-Channel business. It was not entirely clear last night whether European Ferries, which is the second largest cross-Channel operator have most to gain from their chief rival's commercial secrets, will or will not get the detailed information package from Morgan Grenfell. All dozen bidders have been required to sign a confidentiality undertaking as a precondition for receiving the information.

The involvement of European Ferries is undoubtedly going to make the Sealink auction a subtle and complicated affair. Having been turned down with a bid for Sealink four years ago, European Ferries will be wasting its time if the Monopolies Commission is simply to repeat its original verdict. On the other hand, for defensive as well as offensive reasons, EF can probably afford to pay more for Sealink than anyone else. Buying Sealink would give EF nearly 70 per cent of the key Dover routes across the Channel.

In the meantime the company is vulnerable to a bid itself. Having just sold Singer & Friedlander to Britannia Arrow and having had his Felixstowe free-port application rejected, Mr Ken Siddle, EF chairman, is running out of options for expanding his business (always assuming that independence is still his long-term aim).

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, will be eyeing European Ferries closely: the Sealink auction has given him a choice of how to become involved in the cross-Channel business. The timing also leaves Trafalgar with a delicate tactical choice: whether or not to pursue this interest through Sealink, European Ferries or P & O. The Monopolies Commission will presumably not allow Trafalgar more than one of these three options.

Sir Julian Hodge goes to market

At the ripe old age of 79, the one-time railway clerk and sometime controversial London-Welsh financier, Sir Julian Hodge, is returning to the stock market. Commercial Bank of Wales, the bank he founded in 1971, is to have a full Stock Exchange listing.

Apart from Sir Julian and family trusts, who hold 27 per cent and First National Bank of Chicago with 20 per cent, the shares are already widely spread and for the last few years have been traded under the anachronistic Stock Exchange, Rule 163 (2). At the likely opening price on Thursday of 115p to 120p, Commercial Bank of Wales will be valued at about £6m.

CWB was set up as a regional bank to provide banking services to customers in Cymru and its ethnic origins are echoed in its board of directors. Former Labour Premier, Mr James Callaghan, who represents Cardiff South-East, was once a director; he brought a political lustre and many international dignitaries to Sir Julian's Cardiff circle. Current luminaries include the former Speaker, Viscount Tonypandy and Lord Harlech.

CWB's arrival on the stock market, arranged by stockbroker Lyndon & Co, is other wise a straightforward event. Pretax profits were up from £716,000 to £1.33m last year, by thus little changed from four years earlier. The prospectus does not envisage spectacular growth.

This rather colourless prospect is unlikely to worry Sir Julian who made his first million in 1961 when Gwent & West of England Enterprises, dubbed at the time by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer as the most overvalued share in Britain, went public. In 1973 he sold out the Hodge Group to Standard Chartered for £55m shortly before the secondary banking crisis, a piece of masterly timing that became the envy of the banking world. Subsequent criticism of second mortgage activities in which Hodge group was involved heightened his reputation for wizardry.

Sir Julian has worked hard to bring CWB to the point it has now reached, he campaigned tirelessly against the Bank of England's initial refusal to grant CWB full recognition as a bank under the 1979 Banking Act, a battle which he finally won in 1982. Despite his age and various charitable activities, he is still executive chairman of CWB and according to his advisers, "very active".

Only one fifth of Britain's insured exporters to Nigeria have bothered to tell the Export Credits Guarantee Department how much they are owed. As a result they are risking substantially delayed settlement of their bills.

The ECGD is so concerned about the information gap, with official estimates of British short-term insured trade debts still being quoted as "between £600m and £800m", that it started a telephone campaign yesterday to round up the laggards.

It wrote to 1,500 policy holders on January 12 but has so far received only 300 replies. Even though a few firms have no claims to make, the ECGD calculates that at least two-thirds of the debts are unaccounted for. What is even more remarkable is that several of the biggest British traders have not replied.

A refinancing agreement for Nigeria's foreign debt, negotiations for which continued yesterday, with a surprise visit by the Finance Minister, Dr Ousulope Soyole, to the International Monetary Fund in Washington, would guarantee instant payouts to exporters which have filed. It would mean

Stanley Gibbons suspended within moments of debut

By Michael Hornell and Jonathan Clare

Share dealings in Stanley Gibbons, the leading stamp dealer and auctioneer, were suspended by the Stock Exchange yesterday, within moments of the company's return to the ranks of public companies after an absence of five years.

The much heralded launch on the Unlisted Securities Market was cut short pending clarification of a *Sunday Times* report about the business background of Mr Clive Feigenbaum, the new company chairman.

This claimed that he was involved in the crash of a philatelic supplier less than 12 months ago and that he was associated with the issue of "stamps" for non-existent countries.

Inquiries by *The Times* indicate that Mr Feigenbaum's difficulties will continue this week when opposition to him within the philately world emerges.

The Philatelic Traders' Society, which expelled him in 1970, will meet tomorrow to consider his application for readmission. At least six leading stamp dealers have objected to his application and some have threatened to resign if he is accepted.

Discussions were taking place yesterday afternoon between the Stock Exchange Council and Mr David Cohen, a partner of Simon & Coates, the firm of stockbrokers responsible for bringing the company to the USM.

Neither the company nor the broker could say when dealings would begin. But the company pointed out that the Stock Exchange was concerned only about the chairman's business background rather than with Stanley Gibbons itself.

Dealings were halted yesterday before they had even started, one of the fastest suspensions on record, but not before the jobbers had marked the shares up at 112p, against the placing price of 100p.

The Stock Exchange said the shares would remain suspended until the company's position had been clarified.

The Stock Exchange Quotations Committee said last night that any bargains done in the shares before it was

apparent that permission to deal has not been granted would be void.

Mr Feigenbaum's expulsion from the Philatelic Traders' Society followed his refusal to describe stamps which he produced for the island of Staffa (the inspiration for Mendelssohn's *Pinglo's Cave*), an uninhabited island off the coast of Mull, Scotland, as "British local issue" as required by the PTS code of ethics.

Mr Feigenbaum's main claim to entrepreneurial fame is his feat of selling to wealthy Americans the "23-carat gold" stamps put out by Staffa. The gold leaf stamps which, according to US government tests, had a gold value of about 5 cents, sold for about £10 each.

Reuters' profits soar to £55m

By William Kay, City Editor

Reuters, the news agency which is planning to go public next month, yesterday announced record 1983 profits of £55.25m, against £36.75m for the previous year.

This extended City expectations of £50m and prompted led to projections of up to £75m for 1984.

But concern was expressed at the sudden jump in the tax charge because of the changes in capital allowances announced in the Budget. This has kept after-tax profits down to £31.31m, which is £2m lower than the 1982 figure.

Although there is an element

of a once-for-all catch up in the latest figure, it does highlight the impact of the new rules on Reuters.

The company was a large beneficiary under the old capital allowance system because it has been installing hundreds of electronic monitors in the offices of subscribers to its financial news service.

In addition to the 1983 tax charge, provision has been made for £19.4m in deferred tax in respect of earlier years, as an extraordinary charge.

Nevertheless, it is clear that Reuters' trading is as buoyant as ever. Sales rose by 35 per cent

in 1983, from £179.91m to £242.63m.

A final dividend of £40 a share has been declared, making a total of £80, against £60 before.

The uncertainties created by the bigger tax charge make it more likely that the shares will be sold to the public through a tender rather than a fixed-price offer.

There will be an extensive debate over the company's prospects in the next six weeks, and the advisers may decide to let the investors at large determine the price.

£1bn credit record in February

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

More than £1 billion of new consumer credit - a record - was advanced in February by finance houses and others as car-buyers took advantage of low interest loans offered by dealers.

Car loans accounted for 10 per cent of the total and most of the February increase - but there was also more lending on consumer durables and other items, as business in the shops picked up after a sharp fall in January.

Figures issued yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry show that the volume of retail sales rose by 1.7 per cent in February, rather more than provisional figures had suggested, though trade remains slightly below the average for the final quarter of 1983.

RETAIL SALES AND CREDIT		
	Sales by volume 1982=100	New credit (£m)
1981	100.4	7,854
1982	102.5	9,109
1983	107.9	10,521
1982 Q4	103.9	2,477
1983 Q1	105.3	2,520
Q2	106.3	2,546
Q3	110.3	2,815
1983 Dec	111.0	978
1984 Jan	107.7	974
Feb	108.5	1,011

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Business in the three months to February was 0.5 per cent lower than in the previous quarter. But this was mainly due to a 2 per cent drop in sales of clothing and footwear, a comparison distorted by an unusually high level of sales last September.

The Retail Consortium, which represents the bulk of Britain's retailers, said yesterday that the cold weather and late Easter may have depressed sales but it expected trade to pick up as the weather improved. The latest cut in the mortgage rate, which takes effect this month, plus the Budget tax cuts, which will affect pay packets in May, should also give some all-round impetus to sales, the consortium believes.

The Treasury is predicting a 3.5 per cent expansion in consumer spending this year, only slightly less than last year, fuelled by rising real incomes and more borrowing. Officials believe it is too early to revise this view on the basis of a couple of months' sales figures.

The retail trade itself, judging from recent surveys, remains optimistic on future trends.

Increasing bid talk lifts Disney shares

From Nick Gilbert, New York

Walt Disney Productions' latest hit film is called *Splash*, but the groups' shares have themselves been making ripples.

In just two weeks the shares have jumped from \$50 to \$66 on increasing speculation that a bid is imminent for the film and television conglomerate.

The struggle over the future of Warner Communications has shown that buyers are increasingly focusing on the hidden value of film companies. In a similar way to the big oil takeovers it is cheaper to go prospecting on Wall Street for existing assets than invest in creating new ones.

There are few big companies left which have production studios and film libraries to fuel video and cable television programming.

Columbia is owned by Coca-Cola, Paramount by Gulf and Western and Twentieth Century Fox by the financier Mr Marvin Davis, who has made it a private company.

The Disney off-screen plot has just been enlivened by the arrival of Mr Saul Steinberg - remembered in London for the Lescaut-Permagon battles of 15 years ago. His Reliance group has paid about \$130m for a 6 per cent holding. But there has also been a boardroom rift and a marital split between Mr Walt Disney's daughter Diane and

her husband Mr Roy Miller, president of Disney.

Mr Walt Disney's nephew, Mr Roy E. Disney, left the board last month, apparently disenchanted with the dismal performance of the company's film division, which has lost \$40m in two years.

Since then Roy Disney, the last Disney on the board, has increased his stake amid speculation that private film and television concerns, might launch a bid.

His stake is still officially under 3 per cent, but now he is no longer a director. Roy is free under US regulations to raise the stake to 5 per cent without disclosing his moves. And it is possible that Roy Disney and Mr Steinberg are working together. Mr Steinberg began buying Disney shares the day Roy Disney left the board and before the news was made public.

The separation between Mr Miller and his wife also heightened speculation that the 20 per cent block of stock held by the family might be less than steady in the face of a takeover.

Disney itself has consistently denied takeover rumours.

At present, the company has a stock market price of \$2,000m - a heavy valuation for a company whose net profits tumbled last year to just \$93m.

150 to lose jobs in B. Elliott plant closures

By Wayne Lintott

The B. Elliott Group, one of Britain's most famous names in machine tool manufacturing, announced a further retrenchment of its manufacturing plant despite the recovery said to be taking place in the economy.

The group is closing two of its four factories and in the two that remain, it will still have substantial spare capacity.

Executives were tight lipped yesterday about the costs and the available capacity for expansion.

B. Elliott has sustained its undisclosed market share but faces the reality that mechanical engineering has a long lay time behind the rest of the economy before it benefits from any economic upturn.

About 150 employees will be made redundant at the plants to be closed in Peterborough and South Luffenham, Leicestershire.

Applied Holographics plans quote

By Our City Editor

Applied Holographics, the company set up a year ago to develop a system for the mass production of holograms, is applying for a share quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The flotation will be a controversial test of the Stock Exchange's criteria for admission to the USM, as Applied Holographic has yet to sell any

machines and is planning its first demonstration on April 12.

Holograms are specially coated plates containing images of the same object recorded from different angles. The effect is a dramatically realistic three-dimensional picture of the original object. They are almost impossible to copy.

Trading in Applied Holo-

Hang Seng stages rally

For the first time since mid-January, the Hang Seng Index, the most important indicator of the Hong Kong share markets, fell below 1,000 points yesterday.

The poor reception given to the colony's shares in London on Friday, after the Jardine Matheson Decision to switch its base to Bermuda was the prime reason for the market's discomfort.

But strong local buying developed later in the session and the Hang Seng ended the day with a 9.58 points plus to 1,023.96.

Hongkong market men attributed much of the late rally to bargain hunters. But the general colour view is that the market is now set for a period of consolidation around the 1,000 points mark.

As the Hongkong market staged its modest recovery, the Tokyo share market was once again hitting fresh highs. The Nikkei Dow Jones Index climbed an impressive 11.78 points to top the 11,000 mark for the first time at 11,050.19 points.

In London, shares started the second leg of the ascent on a subdued note, with the FT 30 share index falling 6.2 points to 370.8 points.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1108.1 down 4.4 (day's high: 1159.9 low: 1108.9)
FT Index: 370.8 down 6.2
FT 100: 83.02 down 0.17
FT All Share: 522.95 down 1.75
Bargains: 30,502
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 114.19 up 0.38
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 11,050.19 up 11.78
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,050.19 up 11.78
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1023.96 up 9.58
Amsterdam: 173.2 up 2.5
Sydney: AO Index 749.1 down 1.4

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4365 down 80pts
Index 79.8 up 0.3
DM 3.7375 unchanged
Fr 11.49 down 0.0150
Yen 322.50 down 1.50
Dollar Index 125.1 down 0.2
DM 2.8035 up 0.0143
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4330
Dollar DM 2.8020
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 1.67879
SDR 10.73769

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 8%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
3 month interbank 9 - 8%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10% - 10%
3 month DM 5% - 5%
3 month Fr 14% - 14%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10%
Treasury long bond 96% - 96%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period February 8, 1984 to March 6, 1984 inclusive: 9.373 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$387.25 pm \$387.20
close \$383.75 (\$267.50)
New York (latest): \$384.00
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$385.50 (\$275.25-276.25)
Sovereigns (per £100):
\$90.50-\$91.50 (\$263-63.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Land tax attacked

The Government has been accused of hiding away within the Finance Bill a proposal to introduce a withholding tax on the sale of properties by non-residents. The allegation was made by Dearden Farrar, a firm of chartered accountants, which is concerned that the planned measure will not receive adequate debate.

● Conder International, the specialist building and construction group, has reported a £4.679m loss for the year to December last compared with a loss of only £638,000 in 1982. Turnover fell from £101.166m to £98.465m in 1983.

Tempus, page 23

Up to £800m in Nigerian debts unaccounted for

ECGD warns reluctant creditors

By John Lawless

Only one fifth of Britain's insured exporters to Nigeria have bothered to tell the Export Credits Guarantee Department how much they are owed. As a result they are risking substantially delayed settlement of their bills.

The ECGD is so concerned about the information gap, with official estimates of British short-term insured trade debts still being quoted as "between £600m and £800m", that it started a telephone campaign yesterday to round up the laggards.

It wrote to 1,500 policy holders on January 12 but has

so far received only 300 replies. Even though a few firms have no claims to make, the ECGD calculates that at least two-thirds of the debts are unaccounted for. What is even more remarkable is that several of the biggest British traders have not replied.

A refinancing agreement for Nigeria's foreign debt, negotiations for which continued yesterday, with a surprise visit by the Finance Minister, Dr Ousulope Soyole, to the International Monetary Fund in Washington, would guarantee instant payouts to exporters which have filed. It would mean

that insured trade debts were rolled up into a six year loan. The astonishing dearth of information, however, is also causing problems for Barclays Bank International, which is managing the loan. The syndication should be in place by May awaiting agreement from the IMF for a standby credit of up to \$3.1 billion for Nigeria.

But it will not know how big a loan it is coordinating until all exporters own up to how much they are owed.

Some companies are being lazy, knowing the ECGD insurance will not be invalidated by any failure to report

right away. Most, though, do not realise they are risking long payment delays, because an agreement would cause a push of claims which would then have to be individually vetted by the ECGD.

The claims will be many. Nigeria is by far the biggest market for ECGD short-term trade cover, with the agency covering 10 per cent of its global imports. The length of delay facing latecomers can be measured against a ruling by the ECGD introduced as long ago as 1981, when it increased the claims waiting period from four

to 12 months.

These figures relate to the group managed by Albright & Wilson, including companies owned directly by Tenneco.

- Under the Company's rationalisation programme, Resins & Organics Division was added and the agricultural chemicals, aryl phosphates and toluene chemicals businesses were sold, following the sale of the Bush Boake Allen operations in September 1982.
- The continuing businesses showed a rise of 11% in sales and 48% in profits over 1982. All Divisions contributed to the increase in profits, the largest improvement coming from the UK but with overseas companies still providing the greater part of the total profit.
- UK exports in 1983 rose to £110 million, with the continuing businesses showing a 20% increase over 1982.
- Phosphates Division obtained two Queens Awards for exports and for technology.
- Major capital expenditure projects were commenced in the UK, for the upgrading of phosphate and

detergent plants, while substantial expenditure on phosphorus and sodium chlorate plants continued in Canada.

● Productivity improvement continued to be an important factor in the growth of profits: the number employed fell during the year from 7,200 (including Resins & Organics Division) to just over 6,300, with disposals accounting for 700 of the reduction.

Copies of the Review of the Year may be obtained from R. F. Bennett, Corporate Public Relations Manager, at the address given below. Copies of the Annual Report, containing the statutory accounts, are also available.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON International in chemicals

1 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1X 7DD

Albright & Wilson Ltd

PROGRESS IN 1983

	£ million	1983	1982
Sales		570.2	520.1
Trading Profit		41.3	24.7
Capital Expenditure		24.5	18.6
Net capital employed (end of year)		223.9	238.3
Return on capital (%)		18.4	10.4

APPOINTMENTS

Four new partners for Peat Marwick

Peat Marwick: Mr Ron Goodwin (Congleton office), Mr Graham Hirst (Bradford), Mr Michael Skuse (Birmingham) and Mr Peter Brown (Preston) have become new partners.

London Discount Market Association: Mr R G Gibbs has been elected chairman of the association in succession to Mr M R Toynbee, and Mr N H Chamberlain has been elected deputy chairman.

Associated Dairies Group: Mr D L Dume has been appointed a non-executive director.

Lowndes Lambert Construction: Mr M J Caley has been appointed chairman. Mr R J G Shaw continues as a director of the company. Mr D Senior becomes managing director. Mr J W Farley has been appointed a director of Lowndes Lambert Marine.

C E Heath & Co (Reinsurance Broking): Mr K L Penson has been made an additional director. Mr R G Rose and Mr D Webber are appointed assistant directors.

C E Heath & Co (LMX): Mr E W Thompson has become an additional director.

Chestertons: Mr M L J Marshall has retired from the role of senior partner but will remain a consultant. Mr William H W Wells has succeeded him.

Telefon: Mr Peter J Collins has been appointed operations director.

PRIVATBank: Sir Malcolm Wilcox, deputy chairman has been appointed to the board of representatives of PrivatBank A/S.

AB Electronic Products Group: Mr Peter J Phillips has become a non-executive director.

Tyzack & Partners: Mr Patrick Alexander has been made a partner in London.

Ciba Geigy Plastics: Mr H G Clayton has been appointed managing director.

Albert Fisher Group: Mr S P Barker has become finance director and N D J Freeman has been made an additional non-executive director.

Norcross Investments: Mr Raymond L Ward has been appointed managing director.

Michael Prest examines the reasons for the growing success of an important new development

London market warms to currency options

Financial markets and promotional hyperbole are hardly strangers to each other. Yet there has been a genuine ring to the enthusiasm surrounding the emergence in London over the past six months of a new instrument, currency options.

Whether among hard-headed foreign exchange managers, or corporate finance directors wary of the City's little ways, or even within the hallowed halls of the Bank of England, there is a growing feeling that currency options will become a big and important new market for London.

Options in general, of course, are an old idea. But the right to buy or sell one currency against another at an agreed rate, and perhaps at an agreed time, is more of a novelty. The Philadelphia Stock Exchange started trading currency options in December 1982, and the International Monetary Market, part of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, launched a dollar-Deutschmark contract this February. The European Options Exchange in Amsterdam trades a dollar-guilder contract.

These markets have been valuable in alerting a wider audience of foreign exchange dealers and companies to the possible advantages of currency options. But the qualitative change in the market place can be dated to last autumn when a handful of London and New York banks began to offer currency options to their corporate customers.

The strength of the response took them all by surprise. Mr Doug McGregor, the assistant chief dealer (corporate services) for Barclays International, which wrote its first contract last November, said: "It is one of the most exciting things to come our way for a long time."

Mr John Heywood, a director of Hambros, agrees. Within a few days of launching its currency option service on October 1 last year, the bank "attracted an embarrassingly large demand". Mr Heywood is coy about the volume of business so far, but he says: "We started off being surprised by the size and speed of demand generally."

To date about half a dozen banks are active in this new London market. Apart from Barclays and Hambros, the others are Hill Samuel, Citibank, Lloyds, Bank of America and International Treasury Management (a joint venture between

the Hongkong and Marine Midland banks).

Perhaps as many again are dipping their toes into the water. All agree, however, that unlike some other inventions of financial markets, the expansion of currency options is being fuelled by real demand from corporate customers.

So why are options attractive to companies? After all, existing forward and futures markets in currencies, along with schemes such as the Tender to Contract cover, offered under the auspices of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, would appear to provide companies with the foreign exchange hedges they need.

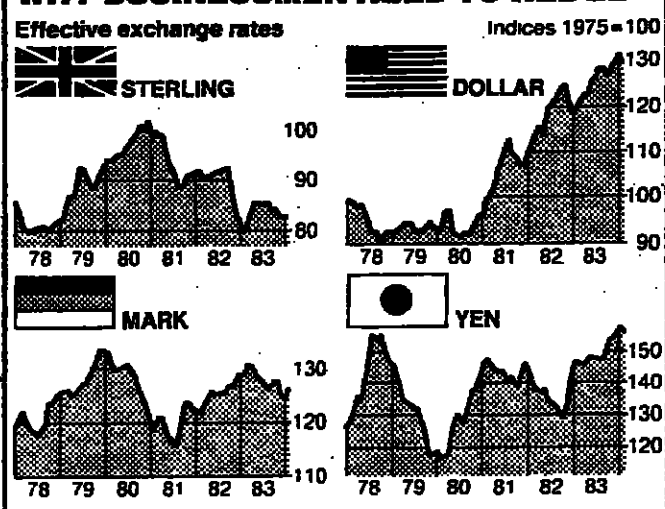
There are two main explanations for the appeal of currency options: the elimination of any open-ended risk while simultaneously offering the chance of a profit, usually at a low cost. A corporate treasurer using currency options to fix his foreign exchange liabilities can convince his board that earnings will not be obliterated by a futures contract going the wrong way. Critically, there is no obligation to exercise an option.

'Premium takes into account currency volatility'

Options may be used to cover any kind of foreign exchange risk, ranging from tendering for contracts or qualifying receivables and payables to capital expenditure and takeovers.

Let us take the example of a British company exporting to the United States. It expects to be paid in three months. The company can buy an option to exchange its dollars in three months' time (the expiry date) at \$1.50 to the pound (the strike price). If sterling appreciates, say to \$1.52, there is no downside risk because the company can buy sterling from the writer (issuer) of the option at \$1.50.

WHY BUSINESSMEN NEED TO HEDGE



By contrast, should the pound depreciate, say to \$1.48, the company has a choice. It can either just let the option expire, or it can sell the option back to the writer, before expiry, buy in the market and pocket the difference between the market rate and the option rate.

Needless to say, life is not that simple. Options come in two varieties: put options (the right to sell), and call options (the right to buy).

As if that were not enough, the market also distinguishes between a European option and an American option. The former generally has a fixed exercise date (the expiry date) while the latter can be exercised at any time during its life. In practice banks will quote for either style, just as they will quote for any combination of reasonably widely traded currencies.

On top of that, the company must decide where to pitch the strike price, and whether to base it on the spot or a forward rate. This will partly depend on the volatility of the exchange rate, and normally takes into account the degree of risk felt to be

acceptable. Here the life of the option is another factor. Options exchanges deal in contracts for three, six or nine months, but banks are prepared to consider offering options over different periods.

For this service, however, the banks or the market exact a price. When a bank writes a contract it receives a premium for taking on the risk. That premium takes into account currency volatility, the "intrinsic value" or difference at any time between the strike price and spot rate, and the "time value" or amount of option premium over and above the intrinsic value. The latter rests on the assumption that the longer the option has to expiry, the greater the risk to the writer.

It is on their ability to offer more keenly priced premiums that banks compete. But broadly speaking premiums will amount to about 3 per cent of the value of the option written. On the present sterling/dollar spot rate, for example, the base time cost of a six month option is 1.5 per cent. But if you want an option to buy at a price, say 3 cents different from today's rate, it will cost you a further 2

per cent, giving a total option premium of 3.5 per cent.

The irony here is that most banks use a version of the same formula for estimating the premium. Known as the Black-Scholes formula, it was originally developed in the United States for pricing commodity options. Using the same formula might be expected to reduce the competition in the market. But the London banks have conducted their own research into currency volatility, past and, just as important, future. They also have to make assumptions about interest rate differentials before a premium can be calculated.

Most banks agree that their modified premium pricing formulae have worked well. Mr Alex Monas, of Hill Samuel, said that its model had stood the test of the first few months' operations. But as Miss Janet Young, of International Treasury Management, points out, the theoretical model is not necessarily what the market will bear.

In a currency option exchange such as Philadelphia,

London banks 'beginning to take in each other's washing'

now trading about 7,000 contracts a day, that is no problem. The banks, however, are writing individual options to suit customers and may not have a precise analogue in a traded option exchange. They, therefore, must make market assumptions about premium pricing.

Consequently, the obverse of the company laying off its risk by buying an option is the bank (or in the case of an options exchange the speculator) assuming that risk. Offering the service is only one half of the bank's business. The other half is finding ways of covering

itself, especially when the buyer of the option is "in the money", that is it can sell the option back to the bank at a profitable rate.

The risk can be high. Although ITM and Hambros are prepared to quote for amounts as low as \$100,000, the average in the market is around \$5m. Barclays has quoted for \$100m. Whatever the size, the principle is the same. Some of the risk will be laid off on to forward and futures markets, some the bank will run on its own book within set limits, and once an options portfolio has accumulated the bank can also match one option against another.

Significantly, however, the extent to which banks use traded options markets varies considerably. Miss Susan Steele, the London representative of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, estimates that roughly half its currency options turnover originates in Europe, and much of that is channelled through London. But most banks argue that the Philadelphia market is insufficiently liquid and the \$25,000 contract too small to accommodate more than a fraction of their requirements.

It is possible that the IMM will grow sufficiently to handle the potentially very big business being generated in Europe and in the United States. But its contracts are options on futures, and Mr Leo Melamed, the IMM's founder and special counsel, admits that the combination is more attractive to financial institutions and to speculators than to corporate users.

Some banks in London are, therefore, beginning to take in each other's washing. It would be premature and grandiose to call the few occasions on which such risks have been transferred an interbank market. Nevertheless, there is a general expectation, not least in the Bank of England, that such a market may well emerge as more banks introduce the service.

In the end, however, that will depend on the banks' customers rather than on the banks themselves. If the present high level of interest being shown by companies in currency options translates into sustained demand a new market will come of age. And that in turn will increase the pressure for a traded currency options market, perhaps on the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

Distillers buys US importer for \$250m

The Distillers Company confirmed yesterday that it was buying Somerset Importers of New York from Eamark for \$250m (£176m) in cash, in its biggest takeover for years.

Somerset is the exclusive US importer of Johnnie Walker whisky, Tanqueray gin and other DCL brands. The purchase, predicted in *The Times* last week, follows a much smaller deal by Arthur Bell to buy a US importer for \$16.5m.

Mr Robert Temple, DCL's finance director, said yesterday: "We are buying Somerset's operating expertise. Somerset operating as part of a conglomerate is very different to Somerset acting as part of Distillers."

Somerset was put on the market following the takeover of its parent group last summer. DCL's other imports will not be affected. The US is DCL's largest single export market, but it has been under pressure from health lobbying and changing trends in drinking.

The acquisition comes at the same time as the company is streamlining its British whisky interests.

DCL's performance in the US has been better than the industry in general. Mr Temple said: "We have done rather better than the rest of the industry in what is admittedly a very unsatisfactory position."

Control change at coach group

Leisure Development, the company specially set up to invest in the leisure industry at the beginning of the year has taken a controlling stake in Len Wright Travel, a specialist coach operator.

Leisure Development, which has Mr Walter Goldsmith and Mr John Knight, the former finance director of the Playboy Club on its board, is injecting £710,000 into Len Wright in the form of loanstock and convertible preference shares in return for a 51 per cent stake.

The coach company's fleet includes 32 coaches worth up to £100,000 each. Mr Wright will retain the balance of the shares and remain with the company.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bid talk lifts Scottish and Newcastle Breweries

By Derek Pain

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the McEwen-to-Younger group which has sparked more takeover talk in the City than any other leading brewing group, was back in the bid spotlight yesterday.

As shares, despite the latest glowing Confederation of British Industry report tumbled, S and N recorded heavy progress, advancing 3p to 116½p at one time.

The company's profits tide, after many false dawns, is on the turn. But although the shares are due for a re-rating on profit grounds, there is a distinct feeling that the company could, at this stage of its revival, attract a bidder.

Expect a stock market presence within a year, says a Virgin Records, the highly successful showbiz group, which has spread into such diverse activities as airlines and pubs. Its founder, Mr Richard Branson, is talking to a leading City merchant bank with the object of achieving a full stock market listing.

In geographical terms Imperial Group, the Courage brewing enterprise, should find S and N the perfect fit. But an impa advance would almost certainly attract a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

Drinks analysts think that any successful S and N bid would originate from overseas. One name which keeps recurring is Seagram Co., the world's biggest distilling group which has just acquired, for about £3.6m, the Odbins off-licence chain here.

Seagram is already deeply entrenched in the Scotch whisky industry (Chivas Regal, Queen Anne and Glenlivet) and as its Odbins acquisition proves, is not unaware of its advantages as a retail chain.

But S and N, despite its recent re-rating, is still lagging behind the share ratings of other leading breweries.

Its shares remain, for example, on a lower rating than either Allied-Lyons, itself a recovery stock, and Bass. But the S and N rating is not so far out of line with Whitebread and Co's low voting "A" shares.

In its last full year S and N

impressed its long suffering supporters with a pretax profits jump from £32.2m to £41.1m. The current year could well produce £55m with a further significant advance in the following year.

S and N is currently banking in the success of two of its leading canned beers - McEwen and Kestrel - which have both outpaced the rest of the beer pack in the increasingly important take-home market.

Elsewhere, shares started the day with a modest plus on the publication of CBI's best report since 1976. But confidence was eroded as the day progressed and by the close the FT 30 share index recorded a 6.2-point fall to 870.8.

Trading, however, was on the light side with most of the major institutional shareholders prepared to sit it out and leave the running to the private investor who is becoming more evident in these days with the FT index, despite its recent weakness, still near the 900 mark.

Once again the insurance pitch dominated attention. Commercial Union shares rose 12p to 236p at the start of trading as speculation intensified that an American bidder would emerge. However, the company again denied that it had any knowledge either of a takeover approach, or that it was about to sell its troubled US

Intriguing developments are afoot at C H Bailey, the ship repairs and leisure group. Mr Walter Bateman, a long-time shipping man, has established a near 8 per cent voting shareholding and is anxious to increase his influence at the company. He believes that Bailey, where there is a large family shareholding, is under-estimating its assets. "It is an asset-rich company and is wide open for development," he says. Mr Abdul Shamji's Gomba Group, is said to have 2 per cent of Bailey.

business. Mr George Spratt, secretary said: "We have no intention of making a statement. We have no reason to make one." By the end of trading CU shares had fallen back to 230p for a 6p rise on the day.

Extel Group, the communications complex, fell 3p to 553p despite some vague talk of a 700p share take over offer. The group, which last year took over the Benn Brothers

publishing business, is a leading beneficiary from the city's financial communications revolution.

Gills were fairly calm, after a hesitant start, and traders concentrated on special situations, notably among index-linked stocks which are still exciting much comment among brokers. Both Laurie Milbank, and L. Messel for example, have produced notes extolling the charms of the two early index-linked stocks, Treasury 2% Index Linked 1988, and Treasury 2% 1990.

Using the Government's inflation assumptions contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Laurie Milbank concludes that the 1988 stock would outperform its best fixed coupon equivalent, assuming tax at 30 per cent, while there was little difference between the 1990 stock and its fixed coupon counterpart.

The approach adopted by Messel assumes three inflation scenarios with inflation falling to 3 per cent by 1987; steady at 5 per cent; and rising to 7 per cent by 1987. In all three inflation models, the index-linked return is better for tax payers who pay no capital gains tax on gifts held for over a year, according to Messel. For gross funds and corporation tax payers the return on index-linked stocks will only be higher on the third assumption.

Thereafter, however, the brokers diverge quite sharply in their market assessments. Messel advocates some selling, both on a short-and-long-term view, roughly within a point of current levels. But Laurie Milbank is far more bullish. The broker remains convinced that the market will become increasingly "gross", with major progress taking place among the ultra-long. For funds unwilling to chance their arm so out

Treasury 13½% 2000/03 still looks cheap, yielding 10.607%.

The surprise departure of Mr Keith Burkinshaw as manager of Tottenham Hotspur left the shares of the market's only fully quoted football club 1p lower at 75p.

Spurs shares were sold to investors at 100p last autumn. Stockbrokers were Sheppard and Associates. Forecast profits, before such incidents as transfer fees, were put at £850,000 for the year which ends with this season.

Although shares tended to drift as the second leg of the account got underway, oils, with the exception of the Irish variety, were in fine form. They

Reliant Motor still hopes to launch its new sports car early next year, despite a fire at its headquarters at Tamworth, Staffordshire. The fire is thought to have put back the project by three months. The company expects to have a model available at this year's Motor Show. Reliant has high hopes for its new venture, particularly in the US. Its shares were unchanged at 33p yesterday.

were cheered by Conoco's undoubted optimism about the potential of North Sea block 219/20. But Irish stocks remained depressed on thoughts of what the first significant surveys on the Waterford field will show. Atlantic Resources, once nudging £8, fell 11p to an uncomfortably modest 310.

Hong Kong worries continued to depress Cable and Wireless which fell another 10p to 34½p. But Gill and Duffus, with figures due soon, gained 10p to 210p.

Cecil Gee, the men's wear group which has sold its shareholding in the James Walker Jewellery shops chain, lost 4p to 145p. Buyers are bidders H. Samuel.

Bowater, the packaging and paper group which led the FT 30 share pack last week, succumbed to the inevitable profit taking - down 8p to 320p. Distillers Co., the Scotch Whisky group, edged forward on the completion of its long signalled American deal.

Gee sells stake in James Walker

By William Kay City Editor

Cecil Gee, the menswear retail group which went public last year, has pulled out of the battle for control of James Walker Goldsmith and Silver Smith with a £900,000 profit and an option to buy some of the Walker shops.

Gee's 1,295,000 Walker shares have been sold to N. M. Rothschild, the merchant bank acting in concert with the other bidder for Walker, the jewellers H. Samuel.

Walker's board has agreed to a £29m bid from Samuel, worth 158p a share. That is the price for which Gee has sold out, already giving Samuel holdings and acceptances equal to 40.9 per cent of Walker.

But to win Gee over Samuel had to sell Gee an option on 13 freehold and leasehold shop properties. Of these, 11 are occupied by Walker and two by Samuel. They are expected to be worth up to £5.5m, with the Samuel pair being valued at £2.1m.

The option, which is costing Gee £60,000, is subject either to Walker shareholders' approval or Samuel winning control of Walker.

If Gee does not exercise the option, Samuel will have the right to make Gee buy properties worth up to £1.8m.

TV chairman attacks dispute

Marquess Townshend, chairman of Anglia Television, has strongly criticized the long-running dispute between Equity, the actors' union, and the Independent Practitioners' Association over television commercials on Channel Four.

In his statement in Anglia's annual report and accounts published yesterday he says that "the party most affected, the ITV industry, has no status to intervene, while the two parties concerned apparently have no desire to resolve the matter."

In the year to October 31 last Anglia recorded a profit before tax of £2.7m down from £4m in the previous year. Its subscription to Channel Four was £6.5 compared to £2.1m for the previous year.

TEMPUS

Tobacco holds strength for Bunzl and Molins

Bunzl and Molins yesterday had very different stories to tell about the potential of the world tobacco markets, on which they both depend for large slices of their income. The aggressive management team installed at Bunzl in 1980 took a very definite view that the company had to reduce its dependence upon a market which is in terminal decline. Since then profits from the Filtrona cigarette filter manufacturing division have fallen from more than half of group trading profits to about a third.

At the same time distribution has grown from virtually zero to 43 per cent, while profits from merchandising (mainly pulp) have dropped from 33 per cent to 15 per cent and profits from specialist manufacturers (like sterilised medical paper products) have stayed at 10 per cent.

Future strategy is clear: Make as much as possible from cigarettes with the minimum of investment, while using the cash generated from this and other businesses to expand the distribution and specialist manufacturing businesses in Australia and at home, while bolstering the newly-created paper distribution business in the US.

Molins, which looks at the tobacco market from a different angle as a manufacturer of tobacco machinery, still finds its business extremely profitable.

But rather than accepting that there is no long term future in tobacco, Molins sees the view that there is plenty of growth left in the market outside Britain, where cigarette sales have fallen from 140 billion in 1978 to 100 billion last year, and are likely to fall by a further 4 per cent after the duty increases imposed in the Budget.

The Molins product-led recovery is based upon the continuing 1 per cent growth in tobacco sales throughout the world. Despite local difficulties in markets like Mexico and the Philippines, which have made it difficult to export machinery, the Molins board remains bullish about the potential of these and other Third World markets like China, which are

largely untapped by the cigarette manufacturers.

Both companies have survived the recession with their balance sheets unscathed. The difference is that Molins, with its shares standing at 126p, down 4p on the day, looks vulnerable to takeover if BAT Industries, which holds a 30 per cent stake, loses interest.

Bunzl on the other hand is moving from strength to strength. The shares were up by 23p to 466p on yesterday's results and they will be helped by the one-for-one scrip issue announced by the board to make the shares more attractive to small investors.

Conder Int

Conder International, the systems building firm, has learned the hard way that glittering contracts in the Middle East will not always produce gold. It has had its fingers well and truly burnt in Iraq; the provision of £5.8m which sent the company tumbling into the red is adequate testimony to the problems which arise when a lucrative source of income turns sour.

The provision was made in the first half of the year and despite a return to profit in the second half the damage was too severe for any real repairs to be made. The problems in Iraq are now under control, and after intensive investment in hard cash and management resources the few remaining contracts have been stabilized.

No more provisions will be needed for Iraq, leaving the management free to restore the company's now fragile reserves over the next two years. There is little prospect of dramatic recovery in 1984 but the promise of positive cash flows both this year and in 1985 will go some way to restoring confidence.

One big problem which Conder is going to face in the future is how to finance expansion. It has ideas about acquiring businesses in the water and effluent treatment industry to add to its own operations in that area. But the reserves are in urgent need of

improvement and the directors are determined to restore a dividend payment next year, so the demands on internally generated cash flow will be substantial. The other option, of using Conder shares to finance an acquisition, is constrained by its employees shareholding scheme. The staff originally held one-third of the shares when Conder went public in 1979. This proportion is down to 25 per cent and any acquisition by an issue of shares would dilute this proportion further, something the management is keen to avoid.

Vickers

Vickers is another of Britain's leading engineering concerns fairly gracefully away from the brink, as the 1983 annual accounts make clear. Last year's state of disposals, when £25m of net fixed assets were sold, has brought the gearing level down to around 37 per cent of shareholders' funds, while more horse trading among the divisions after the year-end trims the percentage ratio still further, to about a third. Most exotic of the deals, however, looks to have been the sale of Rolls-Royce Diesel Engines to Massey Ferguson for £17m. Assets sold totalled £77m and the £10m shortfall has charged to reserves.

But Vickers stresses that the whole of Rolls-Royce Motors cost only £38m in profits since 1980.

More pertinently for the market, the residual of Rolls-Royce, the car side, could outperform handsomely this year. Last year's strike at Rolls Royce slashed profits on £100m sales to £1m, but strong demand in the United States could push profits up to £10m. Sprightly running here underpins brokers' forecasts of £32m retax for 1984 (£19.5m) to give an actual taxed p/e of 6 at 151p.

An additional exotic kicker for the share price may come from the sale of the Millbank Tower headquarters and other properties for a possible £25m and the asset sales, if completed, would cut the gearing to almost normal levels.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar perked up late in the day, responding, dealers felt, to better than expected US construction figures, for February.

But at the start of the new financial year, dealers said it was a lacklustre day.

The pound was still on the soft side, with dealers seeing nothing in particular to go for and the miners' strike coming more into peoples' thinking.

Sterling spent most of the day at around \$1.440, but closed at \$4.4365 as the dollar strengthened.

Its trade, weighted average dropped three points to 79.8 in morning trading, its lowest for a year, and was still at that level at the final count, stuck on \$1.4395.

MONEY MARKETS

With the end of the financial year approaching, money markets spent a quiet day yesterday with period rates barely altered from pre-weekend levels.

Dealers in sterling CDs said the only noteworthy business during the day was some selling of "eleven" and "twelve" at 9½ per cent.

Interbank, overnight money spent the morning at about 8½ per cent, but dropped to about 8½ per cent at the close. Local authorities were only active at the short end of the market.

Credit conditions remained fairly tight all day in the discount market, even though the Bank of England was again more than generous with its programme of assistance.

On a shortage which was reduced at midday from £500m to £400m, the authorities provided help totalling £450m.

Secured money did fall to 6½ per cent in places, before a late move back up to 8-8½ per cent for outstanding balances.

WALL STREET

Dow advances in early trading

Wall Street prices opened higher in active early trading. The Dow Jones industrial average, which lost 5.86 on Friday, was ahead more than six points shortly after the market opened.

Advances led declines 554 to

390 among the 1,395 issues traded. Analysts said that with the first-quarter behind it, the market appeared poised for a rally soon, even though interest rates have risen over the past week or so.

Investors seemed confident that the Federal Reserve Board would not raise the discount rate it charges member banks for loans until it receives a clear sign about where the economy is headed.

Economic growth has been so strong many analysts were concerned it would overheat and rekindle inflation. But consumer and wholesale price indices did not bear out the fears.

The government reported yesterday that construction spending rose 6.9 per cent in February after a revised 4 per cent increase in January.

The National Association of Purchasing Management said demand remained strong and expressed concern about rising material costs.

Many analysts believe the economy will slow to a sustainable growth rate and the Fed will not have to tighten credit to combat inflation.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8½%
Barclays	8½%
BOCI	8½%
Citibank Savings	9½%
Consolidated Crd	8½%
Confidential Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co.	8½%
Lloyds Bank	8½%
Midland Bank	8½%
Nat Westminster	8½%
TSB	8½%
Williams & Glyn's	8½%

† Mortgage Bank Rates
 7 day deposit rate of under £10,000, 8½% £10,000 up to £25,000, 9½% £25,000 up to £50,000, 10½% over £50,000.

THE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTANTS

Mr. Robert Dunn MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education & Science, formally opened the Institute's new administrative headquarters at Bedford House, 44 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on Friday Mr. A. V. Austin (Chairman of the Council) and Mr. Tony Branson (Mayor of Sevenoaks) gave short addresses, and the Revd. K. F. W. Prior (Vicar of St Nicholas, Sevenoaks) pronounced a Blessing. Guests included Mr. John Hunt MP (President), Mr. A. A. Cato (General High Commissioner), Mr. P. Fonso (Cameron Embassy), Mr. R. Kumar (Fiji High Commissioner), Mr. A. H. Maral (Malaysia High Commissioner), and Mr. J. E. Odi (Nigerian High Commissioner), together with Vice Presidents, Members of Council and their wives.

Pensions, they're not just changing the rules - they're changing the game!

Company pension schemes are under attack. Norman Fowler's Committee of Inquiry has heard evidence on portable pensions, early leavers, disclosure, solvency and retirement ages. What will they do next? One thing is certain. Directors and managers responsible for company schemes need advice. Now. And they need the best. Ring Noble Lowndes today and mention this advertisement.

Noble Lowndes
 The first name in pensions

Noble Lowndes, 200, The Quadrant, London WC2N 2LU. Regional offices in Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester and Weymouth.

Schroders

The Earl of Airle, Chairman of Schroders plc, reports on 1983

Disclosed profits of the Group after tax rose to £20,923,000 in 1983 from £15,385,000 in 1982. After deducting an exceptional item of £8,500,000 in 1983, referred to below, and non-recurring items of £2,933,000 in 1982, the increase was 16 per cent. The Directors are recommending the payment of a final dividend of 13.5p per share which, together with the payment made last October, makes a total of 16.5p per share, an increase of 10 per cent over 1982.

We have consistently adopted the conservative policy of providing for deferred taxation in the United Kingdom leasing subsidiaries on the full liability basis. As a consequence of the recently announced phased reduction in the rate of corporation tax, it has been considered appropriate to release £8,500,000 from this provision.

In the United Kingdom, operating profits of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited were higher than those for the previous year. Earnings of the banking division declined compared to 1982, when it benefited from the large fall in interest rates. However, profits of the corporate finance division were higher, and with buoyant conditions in stock markets around the world, the investment division had a record year. Schroder Assurance and Investment Holdings Limited performed well as did Schroder Investment Company Limited, whose capital profits compared favourably with 1982. The contribution to Group profits of Schroder Leasing Limited continued to be significant, even before taking credit for the release of deferred taxation referred to above.

Profits of our United States companies were higher than in 1982, after taking into account loss of interest and provisions

against sovereign and commercial risks. The policy of containing the growth of commercial lending was continued, and as a result capital ratios were improved. Trust activities enjoyed significant growth while investment banking operations continued to concentrate on servicing the flow of overseas investment funds into the United States.

In Europe, J. Henry Schroder Bank AG, Zurich, generated record profits. Net interest income rose, as did commissions from lending and income from foreign exchange and bond dealings. The investment division expanded its portfolio management and trading operations, together with its underwriting and placing activities, particularly for Japanese borrowers.

In Australia, trading conditions for the Schroder Darling Group in the year to 30th June, 1983 were difficult and net profits were materially lower. However, it is anticipated that the net contribution for the year to 30th June, 1984 will be substantially higher than in the previous year.

Despite the uncertainties of the past year in Hong Kong, the earnings of Schroders & Chartered Limited were well in excess of those of the previous year. Schroder Asia Securities, which conducts a stockbroking business specialising in Far East securities, expanded rapidly. We aim to develop this company further and in particular to increase its research capabilities and its involvement in the distribution of stock to major institutional investors. Our associated company, Singapore International Merchant Bankers Limited, produced record results in each division, and profits were substantially higher than in the previous

year, while in Japan our business continued to grow at an encouraging rate and earnings increased.

1983 was another difficult year for Latin America. Following the substantial provisions made in 1982 by Group companies in respect of Latin American exposure, we thought it prudent to increase these materially in 1983, because of the higher exposure arising from our participation in the reschedulings of the foreign debt of certain of the countries in the region, and to reflect a reassessment of certain risks.

The Group was able to benefit from the strength of securities markets around the world, and fee-earning activities were particularly successful. On the other hand, our prudent provisioning policy contributed to lower earnings from commercial banking activities.

One consequence of the structural changes taking place in the financial sector is that an ability to market and execute financial services on a global, integrated basis will become an increasingly important competitive factor. Schroders is especially well-positioned to achieve this, thanks to the significant involvement in major financial markets that we have achieved around the world. In order to exploit this advantage more effectively we have appointed five executives as Group Managing Directors with world-wide responsibilities for the Group's principal areas of activity.

Confidence in our business is founded upon the high quality of our staff around the world. Their talents and hard work were again proven last year, and I should like to thank them for all their efforts.

Group Companies, Associates and Representative Offices in: Australia - Bermuda - Brazil - Canada - Cayman Islands - Channel Islands - Colombia - Germany - Hong Kong - Japan - Lebanon - Singapore - Switzerland - United Kingdom and United States of America
 If you would like a copy of the Report and Accounts, please write to: The Secretary, Schroders plc, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 429 (TW B Phillips 120).

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Norwich 3, Ipswich 1, U Wealden, 50 pts; L Alton, 36; 3, M Lovers, 34; 4, J Noddy, 32; 5, P Collins, 31.

10.

FOOTBALL
COMBINATION: Norwich 3

Cauthen's class can help Meikleour defy his penalty

By Michael Phillips

Sieve Cauthen, who has made an impressive start to the new season, can underline his chance in the jockeys' championship on Meikleour (nap) in the Trent Bridge Handicap at Nottingham today.

Cauthen partnered Meikleour to a decisive win in a similar race at Catterick seven days ago. The fact that he started favourite for his first race of the season was a fair indication of his trainer, Jimmy Fitzgerald, had the five-year-old to his liking. Meikleour did not let his supporters down and now I expect his superior fitness to counteract his penalty.

Neeff, my selection for the Headling Stakes, is among the form's 50 horses to follow the Flat. By that count, he is formidable, who won the Middle Park Stakes. Neeff looked a cut above the sort of horse normally found at Folkestone when he won there last October. He was fancied to make a successful seasonal debut at Leicester last Monday but had to forgo that opportunity when heavy rain left the course waterlogged.

Doussard, from the stable of Jeremy Tree, who got off the mark with Crisp yesterday, should be Neeff's main rival if he has made the sort of improvement that one would expect following that encouraging run behind Bluff House at Goodwood last summer.

After finishing second to Halfat last week, Bouny Hawk has fitness on his side for the

Oval Maiden Stakes but I still prefer Master Line, whose elder brother, Master Willie, finished second to Henbit in the 1980 Derby. There was much to like about the way that Master Line shaped in his only race as two-year-old when he finished fifth behind Chelkov at Newmarket, beaten about six lengths.

Fine Prospect, my selection for the Double Gloucester Novices' Hurdle at Plumpton, is owned by Mrs Cath Walwyn, wife of Fulke. The four-year-old is trained for her by Simon Christian, a former assistant to Walwyn at Saxon House. Fine Prospect got Christian off to a good start when he ran out a clear winner at Wincanton last month.

The Stilton Handicap should go to another, rather than Reldis, who looked something like his old self when he beat Leading Artist at Towcester recently. At Sedgfield, the Wilson's Motor Land Rover Hunter Chase should develop into an exciting contest between Prominent King and John Bunyan, both winners over the course's hilly and undulating ground.

Youth and a 5lb weight difference favour the latter but I still prefer Prominent King, who finished fifth in the Foxhunters at Cheltenham, after beating that useful horse, Urser, at Market Rasen. But for making a hash of the second last fence at Cheltenham, Prominent King would have finished a good deal closer behind Venture to Cognac.

NOTTINGHAM

GOING: good to soft

Draw: 5. 6f: high numbers best

2.0 OVAL MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o: £1,338; 1m 20) (23 runners)	Pat Edworthy
1. 50- BERNINI (F Ryan) J Tye 5-0	2. 50- BLACKGATE (A O'Keefe) P Walwyn 5-0
3. 50- BOLD FINDER (G Harwood) 5-0	4. 2330-2 BOURGAIN (D J Green) W Elsey 5-0
5. 50- BURIAL (H A-Hammond) P Walwyn 5-0	6. 50- BURIAL (H A-Hammond) P Walwyn 5-0
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1984: Meeting abandoned - course waterlogged.

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The Vintner, a leading contender for Lord Ashton of Hyde's Cup at Heythrop today

The Vintner for Heythrop test

Point-to-point By Ian Reid

The traditional highlight of today's Heythrop Hunt point-to-point is the four-mile men's open for Lord Ashton of Hyde's Cup. Nostradamus, impressive winner of last year's race, is a non-runner, as are Peter Greenall's three entries, Broomfield, Royal Missile and Silver Crook. The big grey mare, Rockin Berry, second in last year's Lady Dudley Cup at Worcester, must have a chance but has not been seen out since her Warwick hunter chase win on February 22. Furmiston was the four-mile North Lebury ladies' race and Surely Right is improving.

Though his owner thinks the course may not suit him, my selection must be the Vintner, who won the VWH ladies' open over three miles three furlongs in a fast time 10 days ago, after a comfortable victory at Mollington a week earlier.

With Highgate Lady, Robin's Tango and White Pearl absentees from the ladies' open for the Lyon Trophy, I hope to see Teresa Webber score again on her father's Brookline Law. Spartan Love, Freedom and Impudence, beaten only half a length by Stursky, last year, look the main dangers.

Britway may repeat his 1983 win in the old boy's race and Wellington, second in the member's last year, can go one better today.

Some changes have been made in the course since last year. The start for the members' adjacent hunts, Old Etonian, Old Harrovian and maiden races has been moved back, extending their distance to about three and a quarter miles with an extra jump. The ladies' open has been extended from three and a half miles to just over three miles five furlongs, also with an extra fence.

Last Saturday Mrs. Methane, reunited with Bob Mackay, gave an impressive display of front-running and jumping to win the Crawley and Harlow men's open at Parham by a distance in the fastest time of the day, Chichester Bird, ridden by T. Grantham, was second and Azel, with John Hickman up, third.

Nicky Ledger had the RMC Group ladies' open in safe keeping from the moment she took Garrig into the lead three out. Remover, who was running on strongly, would have finished second but came down at the last, giving Anna Hawkins a heavy fall. This enabled Pam Window to take second place.

On Canoe, with Linecar, ridden by Sarah French and joint favourite with Chichester Bird, was second.

Hacking's many admirers expected him to complete a double in the adjacent with Jess Jim, who was made favourite but never showed with a chance. Sergeant Can, ridden by Laurie Fogarty, led for most of the way, was passed by Mr. Battac, but fought back to win by three lengths.

The Eastern Harriers adjacent at Higham produced a battle royal between Saldatore and Sea Tangle, who was challenging at the last where he fell. David Turner's mount came home by a distance.

A slightly sub-standard men's open was won by Master Croft from Lightvale and Lanano. In the ladies' open, Lucy Gibbon, riding Lorraine, won by a distance. In the Longchamp on Sunday but may still be taking things easy after his fall on the Newmarket gallops 10 days ago.

Willie Carson, the reigning champion jockey, partnered Dickie Westbrook in the Cornish Handicap. It was Carson's first victory of the new campaign and Westbrook's

Today's point-to-points
Heythrop at Heythrop, near Chipping Norton (2.0); Dumfriesshire at Roberthill (2.0).

PLUMPTON

GOING: soft

Draw: 2.0 DOUBLE

2.0 DOUBLE	GOUGEON'S NOVICES' HURDLE (2022m; 2m) (17 runners)
1. 50- BERNINI (F Ryan) J Tye 5-0	2. 50- BLACKGATE (A O'Keefe) P Walwyn 5-0
3. 50- BOLD FINDER (G Harwood) 5-0	4. 2330-2 BOURGAIN (D J Green) W Elsey 5-0
5. 50- BURIAL (H A-Hammond) P Walwyn 5-0	6. 50- BURIAL (H A-Hammond) P Walwyn 5-0
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11. 50- BURIAL (H A-Hammond) P Walwyn 5-0	12. 50- BURIAL (H A-Hammond) P Walwyn 5-0
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1984: Meeting abandoned - course waterlogged.

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13.4 Bouny Hawk, 11.

RUGBY UNION

A team too bubbly to be fed on oranges

By Gerald Davies

Wales could do with a Barbarian team of its own if only to serve as an antidote now and again during the season to relieve the pressure from the rigours of the club scene. New Zealand have one and so have South Africa and upon the inspired promptings of Jean Pierre Rives, so nowadays have France.

The nearest it has come to in the past - and the Welsh Rugby Union might want to encourage for the future - is the occasional appearance of the Crawshay RFC XV, who this evening at Stradey Park play the WRU President's XV, not only as a limbering up exercise for the Welsh game on Saturday but also as a means of raising funds for the charitable trust in support of injured players.

The Crawshay's RFC was the brainchild of Capt Geoffrey Crawshay of the famous family of iron masters from Merthyr. It was formed in 1922. He was a philanthropist with interests in politics, industry and the arts and had a love of all things Welsh. He was a self-taught Welsh speaker, an Eisteddfod Bard and, eccentrically, perhaps, wore a green cloak as a badge of the love.

Perhaps in compensation for the passing of their Cornish expedition, which came to an end in 1979, Crawshay's now take off for France where their president, Sir William Crawshay, was one of the first to land during the Second World War to organize the Resistance. He was awarded the DSO, the Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre. On his first visit he was in 1979 to play St Giron, there was no limit to the hospitality. Oranges were much too mundane fare to be served up at half-time for such distinguished guests. Instead the team was served with the best champagne. They were dubbed, with a blessing of the Barbarians, as the Barbarians Galleis.

The club is financed by some sponsorship and by the annual subscriptions of 250 vice-presidents. Much against the exaggerated impression which paints Welsh rugby players as avaricious in their search for financial gain, few of them accept any travelling expenses. This might seem entirely appropriate for Neville Welsh, their team manager and fixture secretary, who might get a nod of approval from a solicitor in partnership with a famous Howe from Port Talbot who not so long ago was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

CRICKET: YORKSHIRE REPORT BACK FOR PRE-SEASON TRAINING



Out of line: a jovial Boycott (in cap) gets down to business and joins in the start-of-term fun

After the revolution comes a ritual

By Richard Streeton

Geoffrey Boycott, six months ago to the day after he was sacked, returned to Headingley along with the rest of the Yorkshire players yesterday for pre-season training. The atmosphere was normal but tinged with the usual start-of-term hilarity. Whatever the winter's acrimony and uproar, the cricketers were clearly anxious and ready to resume work.

Boycott, now aged 43, and a committee man himself after the recent revolution, joined his colleagues for the customary loosening runs, exercises, and gentle practice on the field. His familiar Lenin-style cap, a not inappropriate garment, perhaps, was his only concession to age and a biting wind. Smart new grey track suits, trimmed with red, would have made the scene unrecognisable to players of bygone years.

Most of Boycott's colleagues were not born, or were at least still in their cradle, when he first participated in this annual April ritual. In the afternoon the players were welcomed by Brian Close, the new cricket committee chairman, and another for whom the wheel has turned full circle.

Close was captain in 1963 when Boycott played his first full season for Yorkshire, and it was Close who converted Boycott into an opening batsman. Boycott did not fancy the role, but Close got his way - as he usually did in those days. Seven years later Close was sacked and went off the Somerset, and Boycott became captain.

Close has already lost some tactical battles in committee, and was against ending the contract of Ray Illingworth as manager. Illingworth was an unexpected

visitor to the ground as the players gathered - the traditional desk-clearing routine, possible common to other spheres, Illingworth, like Boycott, is saying now at the moment. First things after all, but once the severance details of Illingworth's contract are settled his version of recent events is expected to be up for sale.

Meanwhile David Bairstow, the new captain, said all the right things at a press conference. He would not be labouring the winter problems to the players - "Everyone has had a bellyful of all that". He refused to make ambitious forecasts but certainly hoped to get Yorkshire off the bottom of the championship table and to continue the momentum gained in one-day cricket after winning the John Player League last season.

Bairstow, who has a good relationship with Boycott, has already secured a guarantee from the cricket committee that he will be able to select the team he wants. He and Close share a belligerent approach to cricket and debate.

Including Illingworth's severance pay, the winter happenings, one way and another will cost Yorkshire more than £50,000. The new hierarchy's mandate was far from unanimous in some respects, and they need the team to have playing success this summer to appease a membership which remains restive.

China to compete

Seoul, (AFP) - China has formally informed South Korea that it will take part in the eighth Asian youth basketball championships to be held in Seoul from April 7 to 9.

A new angle on gloom-laden women's battle with their destiny

The liberation that is to be found at a water meadow

FISHING

would be a little tedious, to say the least. One would need, some time, to escape.

Germaine Greer, so we are told, believes that women live in sterile societies with corrupt governments, find that giving birth is painful, anaesthesia dangerous, fertility frightening, infertility shattering and contraceptives murderous.

Black-cloud

That is a preliminary list of the complaints that the liberated woman now enjoys - if enjoys is the right word - but even in its truncated form is almost certainly a major reason why so many men take up fishing. To spend an entire weekend with a misery bag of a companion who keeps on complaining about her body being a battlefield of warring ideologies

He found fishing to be, as he said, a cheerer of the spirit, a diverter of sadness and a calmer of anxious thoughts. Whether fishing could cope with Miss Greer's unquiet thoughts is another matter but it might be worth giving it a chance.

Which brings to the point that more women, liberated or otherwise, have taken up fly fishing in significant numbers in the last 10 years or so. Many have become very good at it. But

whether these recruits are escapees from the turbid anxieties that ravage their sex when they brood on them at home or whether they just like going fishing is a little difficult to say.

Gloom lifted

Whatever the reasons for their appearance by river and in that they find, as men have previously, that gloom cannot persist within sight of a rising trout and that address is certainly diverted by the successful take of a two-pounder.

All this is common knowledge, so that - putting aside the unworthy thought that Miss Greer is exaggerating a little - it is not impossible that the hubris of the liberated woman which seems to be contagious in cities is far less so when exposed to country air. If woman's despair at her destiny cannot be banished entirely, it may still be modified a little, perhaps only for a time, by a spell among the water meadows.

Conrad Voss Bark

IN BRIEF

Readhead appointed as men's national coach

The British Amateur Gymnastics Association have acquired their second full-time national coach within two months with the appointment of Lloyd Readhead to take charge of men's coaching. Readhead takes up his post on June 1, and will be based at Lillleshall National Sports Centre, alongside Colin Still, the new national women's coach.

Readhead, aged 40 is a former international who missed appearing at the 1968 Olympic Games because Britain decided not to send a team. GOLF: Scotland's professionals will be playing for record prize money this summer. The Scottish region of the PGA today announced that £230,000 will be at stake during the season, an increase of £24,000 on last year, and more than double the 1980 figure.

BOXING: Rene Weller, of West Germany, will defend his European lightweight championship against Jose Antonio Garcia, of Spain, in Hagen, near Dortmund, on April 13.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Drummond has small reward from his appeal

By Keith Macklin

Des Drummond's appeal against a five-match suspension had only partial success yesterday's appeal committee hearing. Drummond was suspended last week for two matches because of realisation, and a further three matches following a partial success in a match against Salford. The committee heard the Leigh winger's claims of provocation, but removed only one match from the original five.

There is now a possibility that Trevor Skerrett, the Hull forward, will be able to lead Great Britain in Australia this summer. Skerrett was written out of the tour last week after a diagnosis of his knee trouble had indicated the need for a cartilage operation. This may not now be necessary.

However, another potential team member has been forced out through injury. Tony Myler, the Widnes half-back who left the field during Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final victory over Leeds, has to have a cartilage operation.

GOLF

Couples confirms the end of an era

From Mitchell Platts, Ponte Vedra, Florida

Fred Couples emphasized by winning the Tournament Players Championship here on Sunday that the curtain is rapidly rolling down on the era when a single golfer could dominate the game. This season, alone, Tom Purtzer, Gary Koch, Jack Renner, David Edwards and now Couples are among the winners on the United States PGA tour. And not one of them would be instantly recognizable to the majority of spectators if he were to walk on to a first tee in Britain tomorrow.

So many youngsters are now emerging from the college with the credentials to become champions that their faces and names may never become as synonymous with the game as those of Hogan, or Palmer, or Nicklaus, or Watson.

Les Trevino, who pursued Couples with the same vigour that made him a legend in the '70s, has little doubt that the days of individual pre-eminence are over. "The Tom Watson era will go down as the last spectacular spell by any one golfer," Trevino insists. "There are now so many very good players out on tour that not one of them can ever hope to dominate the others."

The irony is that it is the true superstars like Nicklaus and Watson who have seen America go into the position where the regular tour is now worth more than £13 million. The crowds flock to cheer a hero, as was illustrated when Trevino made his money move up the leader board, suddenly producing a kind of hysteria which seems to



Couples: exciting future

be reserved for players of his magnitude.

Even Couples acknowledged before setting out that he could not expect any favour from the fans whose hero-worshipping nature compels them to offer their vocal support to players such as his partners Watson and Ballesteros.

"Crowds want to see Tom, Sevy, or Jack Nicklaus win all the time," Couples explained. "That's not to say they want me to play badly. But it's the big names they like to see winning."

Couples earned his cheque for £102,000, and the second triumph of his career, because he coped admirably not only with the tantalizing players' course at Sawgrass, but also with the considerable pressure. At 24 years old, and now with a 10-year exemption to the tour, he has an exciting future. But even though he may now have risen to number one position in the official money list, he can never expect to entirely dominate the golf scene.

VOLLEYBALL

Switch by Scot to England

By Paul Harrison

Last year, Lyn Tennant played for Scotland in the women's Spring Cup. This year, she will play for England. She plays for an English club, Hillingdon, the champions, and has married an Englishman, which qualifies her to play for his country.

Since she is an experienced international centre net player who has played well for Hillingdon this season, Barry Swann, the English coach, has had no hesitation in adding her name to the England squad for the Spring Cup in West Germany from April 15 to 22.

The Scots are not particularly happy about Miss Tennant's move, even though it has been sanctioned by the relevant commission of the international federation. Nick Moody, of the SVA, says: "We were disturbed by the way it was done. We would have liked to have heard about it first, rather than just getting a letter from this commission."

Dundee Kirkton were the last Scottish side to beat MIM, two years ago, in the league. They had two chances to do it again at the weekend.

In the Royal Bank league on Saturday, they went down fighting, 3-2, and in the semi-final of the Royal Bank Cup on Sunday, they lost 3-1. Thus MIM have reached another cup final, in which they meet Volvo Trucks.

The women's final, also on April 29, will be between the holders, Telford, who beat Auchtermuchty 3-0, and Kyle, who defeated West Coast 3-1.

EQUESTRIANISM

Grubb and Linky given chance

By a Special Correspondent

Tim Grubb and his mount Linky have been added to the short list for Britain's Olympic show jumping team.

Grubb, now resident in the United States, was a member of Britain's silver medal team in the "substitute" Olympics in Rotterdam four years ago. He and Linky finished second in the first of four American Olympic trials held recently in Tampa.

Grubb and Linky, formerly ridden by Malcolm Pirah, will be competing in the World Cup at Gothenburg over Easter. Ronnie Massarella, Britain's team manager, and the newly-appointed team trainer, Peter Robinson, will probably be in Sweden to see the partnership in action.

Robinson, whose appointment was announced yesterday won an Olympic team bronze medal in Stockholm in 1956, and an individual bronze in Tokyo eight years later. He will be travelling to next month's Barcelona horse show, the chosen venue for Britain's Olympic team.

It was also announced yesterday that two professionally-ridden horses - Mr Ross and One Promise have been - made available for amateurs to ride in the Olympics. David Broome's mount Mr Ross, will be tried by David Bowen, and One Promise, previously partnered by Lionel and Pam Dunlop, will be ridden by Lesley McNaught.

The rise and rise of a squash-bashing soldier called Robinson

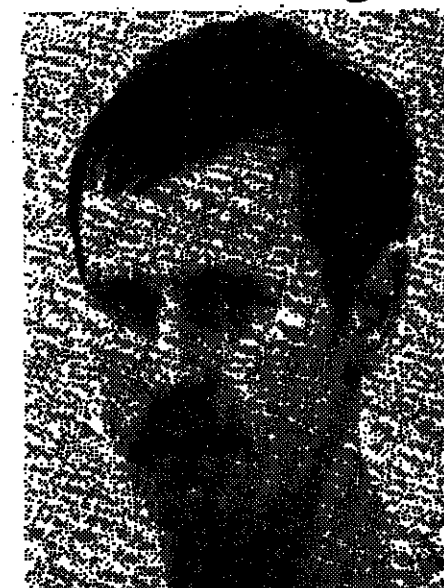
A Jester who is king of the court

Robbie Robinson (the baptismal "Robert" is a faded memory on a 32-year-old birth certificate) is an extraordinary sportsman. The publicity media tend to concentrate on the big names and big money of professionalism but the part-timers have their heroes and heroines, too. Among them is this squash-playing soldier who has twice represented England and would still carry a lot of betting money if there was a strictly amateur championship.

Robinson is 5ft 10in and 11st 3lb: a straight-backed man with a heavy but neatly clipped moustache and pale eyes that hint of steel. His bearing is military and everything about him, including his squash, is unfussy, brisk and disciplined. He is a throwback to that fine breed of Army sportsmen who flourished between the wars.

Born at Wordsley in Staffordshire, he was six when the family moved to London. In 1967, at the age of 15, he joined the Army thinking he could indulge his enthusiasm for photography. "I was totally naive. When they said I was ideal for the RAO, I didn't even know what it stood for." As a junior soldier he had the chance to pursue his hobby. "But I got the bug for sport - and photography drifted out of the window."

The first symptoms of that sporting bug were rugby and tennis. Robinson's three years at Blackdown as a junior soldier coincided with the presence of Norman Bruce, the former Scottish captain. But he went straight from Blackdown to Hereford, and, during three years on attachment to the SAS, discovered that the type of rugby they played had a shattering effect on his enjoyment of the game.



Robinson: military bearing.

His schoolboy interest in tennis was pursued at Blackdown, where he reached the final of the Army junior championship, and later at Hereford and (post-SAS) in the Netherlands and Germany. In 1975 he won the BAOR championship. But in the winter of 1976-77 he was posted to the Ministry of Defence. "Once I got on the London squash scene, tennis took a back seat."

Robinson had been introduced to squash at Blackdown early in 1969. During the subsequent SAS stint at Hereford, he received his only coaching in

the form of a few tips from a Welsh dentist with a Scottish name, James Beattie.

During the winter of 1974-75 Robinson was stationed at Osnabrück when those much-maligned Scottish internationals, Neil Stewart and Chris Wilson, were posted to Detmold, half an hour's drive away. Thus was formed a triumvirate that has helped the Army to a record sequence of 10 consecutive Inter-Services championships. No serviceman has beaten Robinson since Stewart did so in 1980. Mike Perkins (eight) is the only man who has surpassed Robinson's still open-ended tally of six Army championships.

Robinson has played plenty of civilian squash, to, and in March of 1980 he was summoned from Germany to replace the injured Barry O'Connor in the English team competing in the European championships in Helsinki. In 1983 he was promoted three times in eight weeks. In the span of nine months he was not only transformed from a WOII at Devizes into a captain at Bielefeld; he also laid claim to the status of Britain's best part-time squash player (by winning the Jesters Trophy tournament) and won the inaugural individual championship of the Combined Services.

Inevitably, this former SAS Army champion is among the invited members (there is no other kind) of the international Jesters Club, who encourage the playing of indoor racket games "in a spirit not unworthy of the name of the club" - which means that the fun matters more than the result. Drunk or sober, Jesters are supposed to behave like gentlemen. It is difficult to imagine Robinson drunk but in every other respect he is an exemplary Jester.

Rex Bellamy

PUBLIC NOTICES

ELECTION OF DENTISTS TO THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT 1939. The Council is composed of 15 members, 10 of whom are elected by the members of the Council and 5 are appointed by the Secretary of State. The Council is responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in England, Wales and the City of London. The Council is also responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in the Channel Islands. The Council is also responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in the Isle of Man. The Council is also responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in the Isle of Jersey. The Council is also responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in the Isle of Guernsey. The Council is also responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in the Isle of Alderney. The Council is also responsible for the regulation of the dental profession in the Isle of Sark. 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Legal Appointments

LAWYERS

The widest range of career options

The Government Legal Service offers careers which encompass all aspects of the law. Whether in an advisory or decision-making role, or in general legal work or a specialised area, lawyers can both gain invaluable experience and attain high levels of responsibility at an early stage.

Opportunities now exist in the following areas:

ADVISORY

Department of the Environment - 2 posts
Beyond the interpretation of legislation, lawyers handle an exceptional variety of intellectually stimulating work. This can include tendering advice to Ministers and officials, mastering and interpreting complex legislation, and objectively reviewing any wider legal issues that a case may raise.

Departments of Trade and Industry - up to 2 posts
Providing a comprehensive legal service to both the Department and the various Government Departments, lawyers are faced with a wide range of tasks involving, for example, general advisory work and negotiations concerning commercial, administrative, domestic, EEC and international law. Much substantive and regulatory law in the commercial field is covered, relating to both nationalised and private industries. These posts involve some overseas travel.

ADVISORY AND LITIGATION

Inland Revenue - 3 posts
The posts are in the Solicitor's Office which handles a wide range of legal work. Lawyers tender advice in respect of taxes and other value-added tax, conduct litigation and instruct counsel in the superior courts, and prepare cases for appeal tribunals and the lower courts. Experience in advocacy would be advantageous.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - 2 posts
The Legal Department provides a comprehensive legal service to the Ministry. Topics covered include agricultural commodities, food, fisheries, the Common Agricultural Policy, animal health and welfare, agricultural tenancy and the environmental aspects of farming. Initially one post could be in litigation (including the opportunity for advocacy) and the other on the advisory and Parliamentary side.

ADVISORY/CIVIL LITIGATION

Treasury Solicitor's Department - 2/3 posts
One of the largest legal departments in the world, the Treasury Solicitor's Department acts as Legal Adviser to most government departments and other government agencies. Lawyers deal with an immense variety of issues covering contracts, intellectual property and trusts, together with litigation in the High Court and the House of Lords. They also conduct cases at the Court of the European Community, present evidence in major public enquiries, and represent departments at other inquiries and tribunals.

CONVEYANCING

Treasury Solicitor's Department - up to 2 posts
These appointments will be on a part-time basis of up to 3 years which may be extended to 5 years. The Treasury Solicitor's Department provides conveyancing services for all government departments and a number of other bodies including the Forestry Commission, the largest landowner in England. The work involves a very wide range of conveyancing transactions.

Unless otherwise stated, all posts are based in London.

All candidates must be admitted (about to be) or called in England and have recent relevant practical experience. Appointments are at Legal Assistant level or for candidates aged at least 27 and of marked ability and potential. Senior Legal Assistant.

Salaries: Legal Assistant - £2890-£14,770, starting on up to £11,680 depending on age. Promotion to SLA could come after one year for those with at least 5 years' previous professional experience.

and within the Conveyancing Division there is a Lands Advisory section providing advice on complex property matters. The Division has recently been instructed in connection with the conveyancing consequent upon the termination of the Land Settlements Association scheme.

HMA Land Registry - 2 posts: Birmingham and Gloucester
The regional posts involve the examination of the more complex titles on first registration and advising on questions of law arising from dealings with registered land. A knowledge of conveyancing is required together with an interest in Real Property Law.

CRIMINAL LAW

Home Office: Criminal Justice Compensation Board - 2 posts
This work requires lawyers of a good general ability with a capacity for hard work and a studied interest in advocacy. The duties will include consideration of the relevant law and evidence in cases where the applicant has requested the oral hearing of his application by the Board; preparation and conduct of the case including examination and cross-examination of witnesses at the hearing; writing hearing notes and final disposal of case.

GENERAL

Lord Chancellor's Department: Law Commission - 2 posts
Lawyers appointed will work with law reform, and join small teams working on projects in the field of Criminal Law, Property Law, Family Law, Contract. They will undertake legal research, discuss legal policy, draft working papers and reports and assist in instructing Parliamentary Counsel to draft any necessary legislation.

Criminal Appeal Office - at least 4 posts
Every year more than 6,000 applications for leave to appeal against Crown Court conviction of sentence are handled by the Criminal Appeal Office. These often difficult cases are dealt with by a small team of professional and non-professional staff and preparation of summaries for all cases reaching court is one of the lawyers' most interesting and important functions. Some have the opportunity to sit as Registrar in court; all have contact. In the course of their work, with the Judges - from the Lord Chief Justice downwards - and with counsel and solicitors.

Office of Fair Trading - 1 post
General legal work involving advice, drafting, negotiating and some advocacy on a wide range of issues connected with consumer affairs, consumer credit, and competition policy. A good opportunity for a lawyer with a particular interest in consumer or competition law.

PROSECUTION

HMA Customs and Excise - 2 posts
Lawyers initially will be dealing with prosecutions where they advise on proceedings, conduct them in magistrates' courts and have responsibility for them in the higher courts. Later they may be involved in civil litigation, drafting submissions, legislation and advising on the legal aspects of the Department's work.

Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions - at least 1 post
Lawyers, who work to small regional teams, advise on criminal matters, prepare cases for committal to Crown Courts and are involved in advocacy at Magistrates' Courts in England and Wales. Experience in criminal work would be advantageous. Some travel involved.

Senior Legal Assistant - £15,650-£20,565, according to age, qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects to £24,000 and above.
Salaries for posts outside London: £12,500 less.
For further details and an application form (to be returned by 27 April 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke, (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. G2/576/2.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

PROVIDENT MUTUAL

"NEW PRODUCT DESIGN"

From £16,000 plus benefits

Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, a leading mutual life office with assets of £1,500,000,000 seek to recruit a lawyer with a lively mind and a desire to broaden his horizons. This lawyer will be part of a young dynamic team advising on and researching into life assurance and pension products.

Ideally aged around 30, the applicant will have at least three years post qualification experience of Trust work, probably gained with a leading London practice. Any experience of life assurance or pension schemes will be an advantage.

Reuter Simkin are instructed to administer the recruitment; apply in writing or by telephone quoting ref. P9 C96. Reuter Simkin Limited, 26-28 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4HE. Tel: 01-405 6852. Fax: 01-405 3677 who are instructed to conduct first interviews.

REUTER SIMKIN
RECRUITMENT

Cameron Markby

Cameron Markby wish to recruit a recently admitted solicitor to train in banking, equity investment and security work.

Applicants should have a sound basic training in company and commercial work gained in articles or subsequently, a good academic record and be prepared to work under pressure on demanding and interesting matters.

Salary will be attractive and prospects are excellent.

Applications for this post, quoting ref. RM/C37, must be made to Reuter Simkin Ltd 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Tel: 01-405 6852. Fax: 01-405 3677 who are instructed to conduct first interviews.

REUTER SIMKIN
RECRUITMENT

Conveyancing Solicitor.

We wish to recruit a Solicitor for our newly formed Conveyancing Section situated in Birmingham. The Section will handle the conveyancing requirements of Bank Staff moved at its request.

The ideal candidate should have two/three years post admission experience in general conveyancing (but recently admitted solicitors will be considered).

The successful candidate will work with the most up-to-date computer and electronic funds transfer systems.

He or she will be offered an attractive salary and initially given a two year contract.

Please write in the first instance giving details of age, qualifications, experience and present salary to: H. G. Reynolds Esq., Legal Department, National Westminster Bank PLC, 20 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1EJ.

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REYNOLDS PORTER CHAMBERLAIN CONVEYANCING

An excellent opportunity to develop your conveyancing skills in an expanding conveyancing department. We envisage a solicitor with 2 years' relevant experience and a salary of £11,000.

Interviews to be conducted week commencing 16th April.

Applications to:-

Colin P. Ellis, Partnership Secretary,
REYNOLDS PORTER CHAMBERLAIN,
Chichester House, 278-282 High Holborn,
London, WC1V 7HA.

INTERRIGHT'S CENTRE

LEGAL OFFICER
Further details from:
Jenny McBride
High Hall, Church Rd,
Birmingham B15 2EJ
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We are an equal opportunity employer

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Solicitors require Assistant for general litigation including matrimonial. Excellent prospects and realistic salary according to experience.
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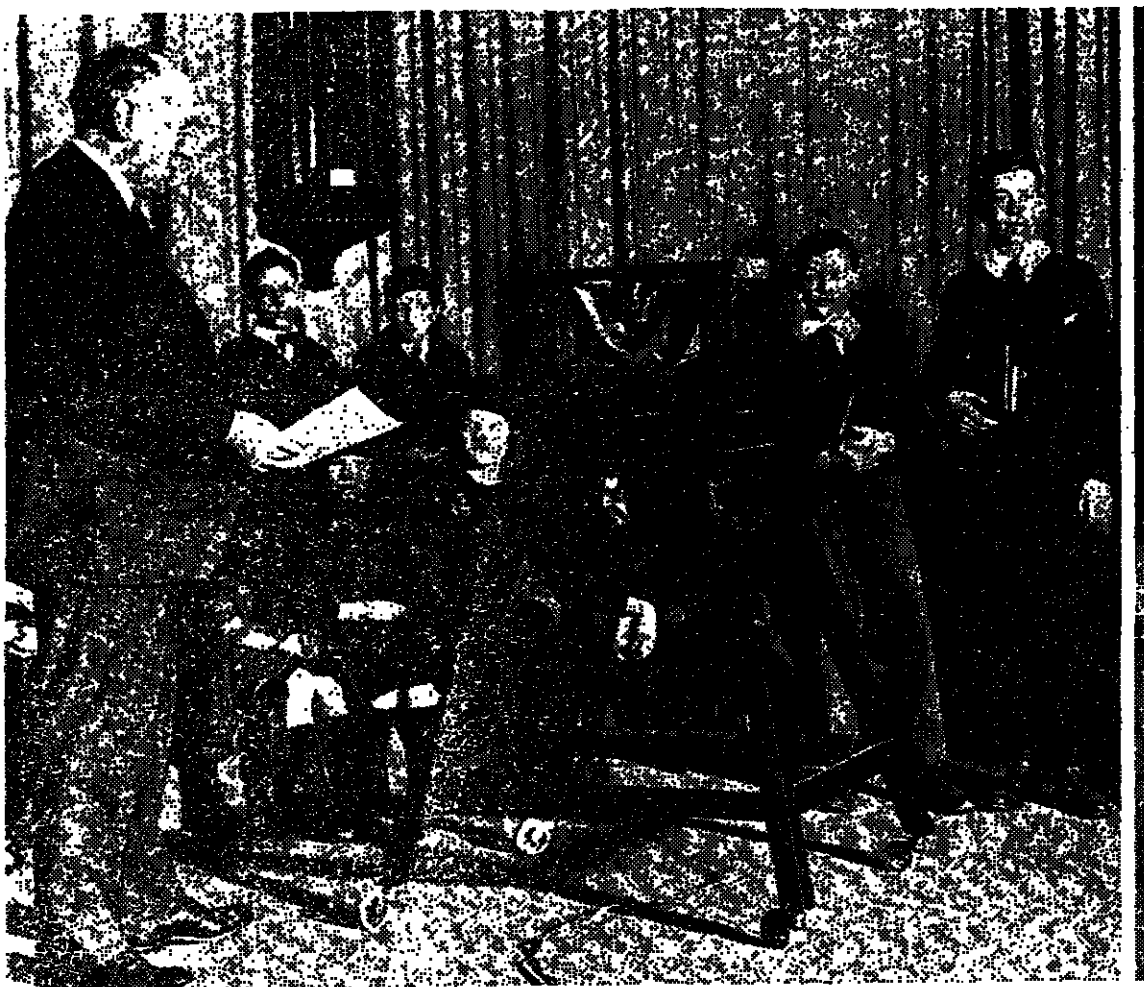
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GORDON ROSE AND CHLOE THOMAS
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202 Brompton Rd, LONDON, W1A 2AA

YOUNG COMMERCIAL

LEGAL EXECUTIVE, Surrey, Midland, Kent, Essex, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, North Midlands, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, North Midlands, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, North Midlands, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, 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60 years on, school radio still captivates its audience



Sir Walford Davies, the composer (left), giving the first BBC school broadcast and Kent pupils 60 years later in a computer link-up by radio.

Thousands celebrate birthday

BBC School Radio, which celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year, is inviting thousands of schoolchildren to join the celebration by taking part in a three-day festival at BBC Pebble Mill, Birmingham, from July 3 to 5. Duncan Goodhew, Sue Lawley and Rolf Harris will take turns as hosts for the festival which will offer workshops and activities related to school radio programmes. Activities will range from country dancing to mathematics games, from poetry to computer sessions. The first school broadcast was a music programme on April 4, 1924. The average secondary school now has four radios and 10 tape recorders, the BBC said.

Social security system to be overhauled

Continued from page 1

Mr Fowler told the House: "Over 7 million people live in households in receipt of supplementary benefit and total expenditure on the benefits is over £5½bn".

The complexities of the system, involving 16,000 paragraphs in two manuals administered by 35,000 staff, meant that some potential claimants failed to understand or benefit from the system which should be helping the worst off.

The fourth review, to be headed by Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State for Social Security, will examine the "tangle" of children's and young persons' benefits, including the £4,000m child benefit.

Mr Fowler said that the four review teams would work with a full-time staff of about 30 officials.

Any changes in pensions and supplementary benefit system would certainly require legislation, and it was not ruled out last night that a reform of the social security system might be the subject of a Bill or Bills in the parliamentary session which begins in the autumn of 1985.

The announcement of the inquiries was given a cautious and worried reception by poverty lobby groups who have long criticized the complexities of the social security system.

The announcement of the housing benefit inquiry provoked widespread disappointment, because Mr Fowler said that it would have to be carried out within existing levels of spending and would not take in mortgage tax relief.

Like the other inquiries it will not report until the end of the year, too late to have any significant impact on the second round of cuts in housing benefit due in November.

Parliament, page 4

48 hurt in Jerusalem terror raid

Continued from page 1

"I was working in the shop near to the Jaffa Road junction when two Arabs in denim and carrying bulging blue haversacks came in and asked for a pair of jeans," Mr Cohen told *The Times*. "One, who was little more than a boy, still too young to shave, suddenly emerged from behind the curtain of the changing room and stuck his gun to my head. 'I looked into his eyes, convinced that he was going to kill me but for some reason he decided not to — perhaps because we were almost the same age'."

The three-man Palestinian group arrived at the scene of the outrage in a hired car. Later, one was captured trying to escape in it on the road leading towards Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. The other surviving attacker was arrested trying to escape on foot in Jerusalem's main market.

Tory backbenchers give Jopling a rough ride

Continued from page 1

He added that the effect of the EEC farm agreement on shop prices in Britain would probably be neutral. Mr Jopling, himself a beef farmer, insisted that there was no reason to predict steep increases for beef. It was also unrealistic to forecast the impact of the EEC agreement on farmers' incomes. The EEC commission has calculated that the agreement will lead to cuts in real terms in prices to farmers throughout the Community in the coming 12 months. Cuts range from 12.8 per cent in Greece to 2.8 per cent in The Netherlands, with Britain at 5.2 per cent, France at 4.3, and the Republic of Ireland at 5.1.

"I do not know what will be the course of the beef market in this year, because it may well be that there will be extra cows sent to slaughter," Mr Jopling went on. He had not yet decided the base

year for applying milk penalties or whether to apply them through farms or dairies.

Britain's farmers face a "tough and difficult" period after the EEC farm price settlement, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs last night (Richard Evans writes).

But addressing the Commons Foreign Affairs committee, he claimed that could have been much worse but for the Government's stand.

"We have been able to provide protection against certain things which were at one time in prospect, like a specially harsh burden on intensive producers, and a special exemption for small producers which would have been a greater advantage to other countries than ourselves."

But it is still bound to be difficult and tough. "As citizens of the Community we must be thankful we have reached this broad measure of agreement."

Letter from Colombia

Vendetta claims 200 death toll

Colombia's Caribbean, one of the most vibrant and exciting regions anywhere in Latin America, is Gabriel Garcia Marquez country. This is his territory, the sprawling folkloric landscape of "every short story and novel I have ever written."

The Cárdenas-Valdeblánquez feud is a tale of the region's two principal cities and would best be told by the Nobel literature laureate himself. Certainly, it goes a long way to support his old grouse against European critics who swoon over the "surrealism" of his works. "What they insist on calling surrealism is merely a reflection of our reality in Latin America."

Odd happenings, which elsewhere might seem surrealistic, happen all the time here. The region's most celebrated clan vendetta is merely one of the more bizarre ones. But first it should be set in the context of Garcia Marquez country.

The Cárdenas are based in the lovely historic port city of Santa Marta, not far from which the author was born in a small inland backwater. The Valdeblánquez clan resides 60 miles further south in bustling Barranquilla, Colombia's main commercial port, where 30 years ago he worked as a journalist.

The region is steeped in the history and legends of the Spanish conquest, yet its mood and rhythm are strongly African, heritages from the era when the *Conquistadores* imported slaves to work the land and load cargoes of New World treasure for shipment to the old. The population is predominantly black and beautiful with many equally lovely mestizo (mixed blood) blends in between. Local Spanish is fast, racy and flavoured often incomprehensibly with slang.

Garcia Marquez country it may be, but Colombian journalism has recently elevated the famous feud to an even higher literary plane: Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet, to be exact. Indeed, a love story of sorts does seem to have triggered it off.

For decades the clans lived happily together in a sleepy small town in the Sierra Nevada north of Santa Marta. Of Indian stock themselves, they made a prosperous living trading with local indigenous tribes. The feud erupted in 1970, the day a Cárdenas youth shot dead his cousin, a

Valdeblánquez. A married woman, who worked in a local *cantina* and had been sharing her favours with both, was the cause.

The clans immediately split up, the Cárdenas moving to Santa Marta, the Valdeblánquez to Barranquilla. A town halfway between the two cities was agreed as marking territorial limits. However, within three months a Cárdenas male was murdered in the heart of Santa Marta. Today, the score is 30 Cárdenas and 11 Valdeblánquez dead, but the real toll is over 200 when victims among the clans' bodyguards, employees and friends are included.

Despite the bombs and bullets, both clans (the Valdeblánquez especially so) have prospered by trading in "Colombian gold" — not the precious metal which centuries ago brought British pirates rampaging down the coast, but marijuana. Though the Cárdenas clan claims it got involved only because "we had to avenge our dead at any price," it (marijuana) financed the war.

The Cárdenas have a lot of avenging to do as a visit to Santa Marta's cemetery will confirm. The clan has just buried its last surviving male adult, aged 23, shot in the back with his own pistol after — with amazing incaution for a Cárdenas — handing it to a friend he trusted who asked to examine it. The Cárdenas are sure the killer was hired by their arch-enemies, though the charge is denied from the Valdeblánquez' fortress-like Barranquilla headquarters. Known locally as the "Third Brigade" because of the security guards who surround it and because the Army's Second Brigade barracks happens to be a couple of blocks away.

The latest killing was witnessed by the victim's nephew, whose father of course also lies in the cemetery. He vows: "When I grow up I shall kill those who killed my papa and uncle. I know who they are."

He is five years old and his fate might well be summed up as a "chronicle of a death foretold," the title of Garcia Marquez's most recent work based on the real events of another local feud in which the writer's best friend was murdered 30 years ago.

Geoffrey Matthews

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Princess of Wales visits the Workforce Centre, Glasbury, Somerset, 12.15.
Princess Anna visits Galashiels and Kelso, Scotland, opening a factory extension at BEPI Electronics, Galashiels, 10.10, and a new swimming pool in Galashiels, 11.10; visiting Claridge Mills, 11.35, and Selkirk Market Place, 2.15. She will open the Eldon Housing Association's new block of flats in Kelso, 3.20, in the evening, as President of the British Olympic Association she

attends at Gala Dinner held by the North East Region Group at the Civic Centre, Newcastle, 7.15.
Princess Margaret presents the Standard Ballet Award for 1983 at Sadler's Wells Theatre, 7.30.

New exhibitions
Platt Hall Gallery of English Costume, the most important collection of English Costume outside London, City Art Gallery, Moseley Street, Manchester, Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun & Mon (until Sept 28).
Eye For India, photographs by four English and four Indian photographers, National Museum

of Photography, Prince's View, Bradford, West Yorkshire, Tues to Sat 12 to 8, Sun 2.30 to 6, closed Mon (until May 22).
Scottish Pottery, an exhibition of nineteenth and twentieth century pottery from a number of well-known Scottish potters, Baird Institute Museum, Laur Street, Dumfries, Strathclyde, Tues to Sat 1.30 to 4, Sun 10.30 to 12, closed Sun (until April 14).

Exhibitions in progress
Recent work by Linda Goudie, Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 29).
Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art, City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until April 7).
The Arts of Japan, Exhibition Gallery, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 24).
Paintings and Sculpture by Trevor Edwards, City Art Gallery, Headrow, Leeds, Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun and Bank Holidays 10 to 5 (until May 7).
Landscape photographs by Roger Palmer, and photographic images by Polish constructivist artists Stefan and Franciszek Thomsen, Cambridge, Darkroom, Dalea Brewery, Gwydir Street, Tues to Sat 12 to 8, Sun 12 to 6, closed Mon (until May 13).
Apocalypse prints by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) and Jean Duvet (1485-1561), Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 30).
Edward Wessom, Guildford House Gallery, 155 High Street, Surrey, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 4.50 (until April 28).

Talks, Lectures
Bath Cathedral by Bryan Little, Bath Cathedral, Guildhall, Little, 1.10.
Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.
Concert by Graff Orchestra, Town Hall, Cheltenham, 1.45 and 3.45.
Concert by Peterborough Sings Quartet, Sam Newson Music Centre, South Street, Boston, 7.30.

General
A guided tour of the Wallace Collection, by Suzanne Caynor, The Wallace Collection, Manchester Street, W.1.
Anniversaries
Births: George Herbert, poet, Montgomery Castle, Wales, 1592; Washington Irving, writer, New York, 1783; James Hertzog, prime minister of South Africa 1924-39, Wellington, Cape Colony, 1866.
Deaths: John Napier, inventor of logarithms, Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, 1617; Bartolomeo Merisi, lo, Seville, 1682; Johannes Brahms, Vienna, 1897; Richard D'Oyly Carte, impresario, London, 1901; Karl Weill, composer, New York, 1950.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending March 27, 1984
ITV
1 Coronation Street (Wed.), Granada, 16.00m
2 Minder, Thames, 15.00m
3 Coronation Street (Mon.), Granada, 16.00m
4 Question Time, 15.45m
5 Day Five, Yorkshire, 15.00m
6 The Price Is Right, Central, 13.70m
7 Frost Fights, Thames, 13.50m
8 When You Were Here, Thames, 12.70m
9 Crossroads (Tue), Central, 12.50m
10 Chicks Play, LWT, 12.40m

BBC 1
1 World Figure Skating Championships (Tue), 13.57m
2 Dallas, 11.25m
3 Switched at Birth, 11.50m
4 Top of the Pops, 10.50m
5 The Sweeney, 10.10m
6 The Sing, 10.10m
7 The World Figure Skating Championships (Sun), 9.55m

BBC 2
1 Sporting Chance, 6.70m
2 Faintest Heart, 4.35m
3 Minder, 3.55m
4 Call My Bluff, 3.55m
5 The World Figure Skating Championships (Sun), 3.45m
6 Tucker's Luck, 3.40m
7 The Mervyn Dymally, 3.35m
8 Shogun and Amazona Forward, 3.05m
9 Pot Black '84, 3.05m

Channel 4
1 Treasure Hunt, 3.55m
2 Brookside (Wed), 2.55m
3 Sporting World Championship Gala, 2.00m
4 Brookside (Tue), 2.55m
5 The Sweeney, 1.55m
6 The Avengers, 2m
7 The World Figure Skating Championships (Sun), 1.55m
8 Soap, 1.55m
9 The World at War, 1.50m
10 The World at War, 1.50m

SAC
1 Treasure Hunt, 3.55m
2 Brookside (Wed), 2.55m
3 Sporting World Championship Gala, 2.00m
4 Brookside (Tue), 2.55m
5 The Sweeney, 1.55m
6 The Avengers, 2m
7 The World at War, 1.55m
8 Soap, 1.55m
9 The World at War, 1.50m
10 The World at War, 1.50m

In Welsh
1 Y Byd Ar Bwyd, HTV, 70.000
2 Gwyl y Brochard, IBC, 50.000
3 Gwyl y Brochard, IBC, 50.000
4 Gwyl y Brochard, IBC, 50.000
5 Gwyl y Brochard, IBC, 50.000

Breakfast Television The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with figures in parentheses showing the number of people who viewed for at least 30 minutes).
BBC1: Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 1.4m (5.2m), Sat 1.2m (4.1m), Sun 0.8m (2.5m).
ITV: Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 1.3m (4.1m), Sat 1.1m (3.5m), Sun 0.7m (2.1m).
Channel 4: Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 1.1m (3.5m), Sat 0.9m (2.5m), Sun 0.6m (2.1m).

The pound
Bank of England
Australia 5 27.40
Austria 5 27.40
Belgium 5 27.40
Canada 5 27.40
Denmark 5 27.40
France 5 27.40
Germany 5 27.40
Hong Kong 5 27.40
Ireland 5 27.40
Italy 5 27.40
Japan 5 27.40
Netherlands 5 27.40
Norway 5 27.40
Portugal 5 27.40
South Africa 5 27.40
Spain 5 27.40
Sweden 5 27.40
Switzerland 5 27.40
USA 5 27.40
Yugoslavia 5 27.40

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Roads

London and South-east: A40 Western Avenue between Grand Union Canal and Oldfield Lane, widening at Long Drive, nearside lane restrictions. Burdett Road and Grove Road, A11 junctions, Mile End Road, widths reduced.

A4083: Forty Avenue junction with Barrow Rise, Wembley, carriage-way widths reduced.

Midlands: A6: Leicester — Derby at Kegworth, closed, diversion, A5: Shropshire, Shrewsbury — Whittington at Queens Head, single lane traffic. M1: Junctions 16 (Northampton) and 18 (Rugby), contraflow.

North: A6123: Yorkshire, single lane traffic, lights, Herringthorpe Valley Road, near Rotherham. A1: Tyne and Wear, carriage-way closures over Lindisfarne interchange bridge, near Jarrow, resurfacing.

A6116: W Yorkshire, delays along Leeds southern ring road. Wales and West: A55: Clwyd, Chester to Colwyn Bay, Ewloe flyover construction. Holywell bypass resurfacing, 24-hr temporary signals. A48: 5 Glamorgan, contraflow system on carriage-way, Cardiff to Bridgend bypass. A442: Gwent, Cwmbran — M4 (junction 26), carriage-way closed, diversion.

Scotland: M8: Glasgow, from junction 10, lighting maintenance, outside lanes closed 9.30 to 4.

A91: Perthshire, resurfacing between Dollar and Muckhart, resurfacing, single lane traffic with lights. A84: Perthshire, single lane traffic, lights, 5 of Douglas.

Information supplied by the AA.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on investment in education. Debate on negotiations in the EEC.
Lords (2.30): London Docklands Railway Bill, third reading. Registration of Prisoners Bill, report. Straw and Stubbs Bill, report. Prohibition Bill, committee.

Country courses

The Countryside Commission has organized a series of residential courses of four to ten days for staff and volunteers employed in countryside conservation and recreation. Details from the Countryside Commission, John Dover House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3RA (Tel 0242 521381).

The papers

The Daily Mirror says: "Our so-called unarmed police force is now to be issued with SAS-style sub-machine guns. The slippery slope towards a semi-military constabulary becomes steeper. Of course, there are special reasons. There will be a need to protect President Reagan when he comes here in June... by co-optation and experience we believe that arming the police adds to the dangers of innocent people rather than reduces them. Once sub-machine guns are issued to defend a president's car, it will be found to issue them again. They will not be rusting in a cupboard at Scotland Yard."

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will persist over E areas, but a trough of low pressure will approach from the W.

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, Lake District, NE, NW, central N and central S, England, Channel Islands, dry, sunny periods; wind variable light; max temp 9-11C (48-52F).
East Angles, E and SE England: Mostly dry, sunny periods, perhaps an isolated light shower; wind N light; max temp 9-11C (48-52F).
SW England, N and S Wales, Isle of Man, Ireland: Dry, sunny periods; wind SE light or moderate; max temp 7-10C (45-50F).
N Ireland: Rather cloudy, a little rain in places; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 8C (46F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Dry at first in the E, but rain or showers in the W spreading to most places, rather cold.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind N backing NW, moderate or fresh; locally strong windy showers; sea moderate, English Channel (E) Wind light variable becoming light to moderate scattered showers; sea smooth becoming light S. St. George's Channel: Wind SE moderate becoming fresh or strong, fair; sea wind becoming moderate. Irish Sea: Wind SE moderate becoming strong locally gale force; sea slight becoming rough.

Sunrise: 6.51 am
Sunset: 7.58 pm
Moon sets: 7.55 pm
First Quarter: April 9.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair; R, rain; S, sun.
Belfast 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Birmingham 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Bristol 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Cardiff 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Cork 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Dundee 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Edinburgh 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Exeter 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Glasgow 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Liverpool 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
London 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Manchester 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Newcastle 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Nottingham 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Oxford 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Plymouth 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Reading 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Sheffield 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Southampton 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Stoke-on-Trent 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Sunderland 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Tottenham 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Wolverhampton 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F
Wrexham 10.5 C 41 F 5.6 F

Lighting-up time

London 8.05 pm to 8.50 am
Bristol 8.17 pm to 8.08 am
Cardiff 8.29 pm to 8.00 am
Manchester 8.18 pm to 8.05 am
Plymouth 8.28 pm to 8.22 am

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp, Dublin, 12C (54F); lowest day temp, Amst Green, 8C (46F); highest night temp, London, 6.22m; lowest night temp, Douglas, 11.3m.

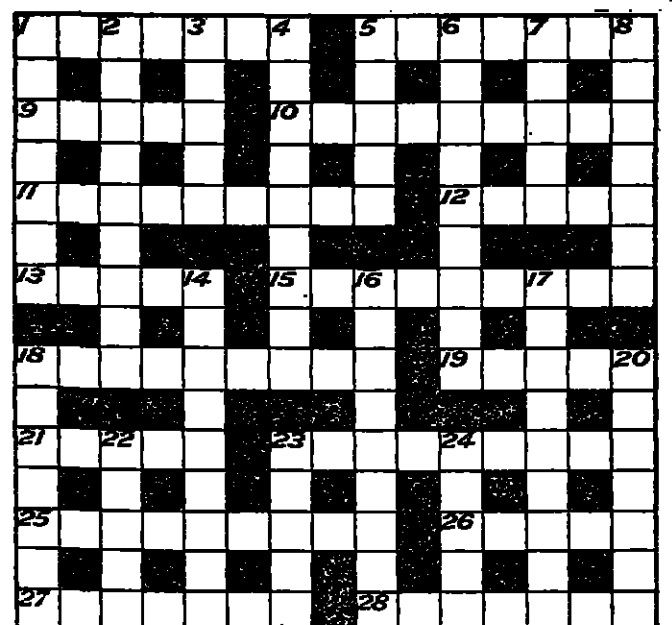
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 9pm, 9C (48F); min 9pm to 8am, 4C (39F); humidity: 66%; rain: 0.0mm; sun: 0.0h; wind: 1.0m/s; pressure: 1013.0mb; visibility: 10.0km.

Abroad

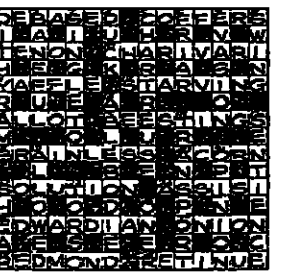
Algeria 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Amsterdam 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Antwerp 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Athens 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Austria 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Belgium 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Berlin 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Brussels 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Bucharest 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Budapest 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Cairo 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Cardiff 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Cologne 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Copenhagen 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Düsseldorf 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Edinburgh 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Frankfurt 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Geneva 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Hamburg 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Helsinki 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Hong Kong 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Istanbul 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Lisbon 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
London 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Lyons 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Madrid 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Manchester 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Milan 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Moscow 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Newcastle 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Nottingham 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Oxford 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Paris 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Plymouth 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Reading 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Sheffield 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Southampton 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Stoke-on-Trent 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Sunderland 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Tottenham 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Wolverhampton 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F
Wrexham 11.5 C 53 F 11.5 C 53 F

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,395



- ACROSS**
- What's-his-name's spelling only fair (2,3-2).
 - St Arnold (7).
 - Breach of the peace — fine, a pound (5).
 - Creature that roamed around in waterless surroundings (9).
 - Made up a drink for one girl to imbibe (9).
 - Works in cooperation (5).
 - Roman figures said to be very good (5).
 - Improving them externally without a break (3,3,4).
 - Elderberry blighted with pest (9).
 - I'm standing, so what's this? (5).
 - Meal does not start with this cut (5).
 - One set to catch Soviet's first heartless dispute, say (6,3).
 - An unmitigated disaster, cutting it in size (9).
 - Express love, instead of concealing it (5).
 - Touching coloured chap (7).
 - This PM almost in spirals (7).
- DOWN**
- Lified up and toppled car over tree (7).
 - Snowfall can have funny look inside (9).
 - I held floating capital (5).
 - He doesn't fit in the selection procedure (3,3,3).
 - Gloomy hymns from his pen (5).
 - They take refuge in New York street (3,6).
 - Yank in endless bliss (5).
 - Means watch is erratic (7).
 - Profligate fellow, one in a row (9).
 - Becket so described Butler — nut to be cracked (9).
 - Reaching the same level in drawing (9).
 - Sound fruit satisfied (7).
 - In a group, the FBI is a bit cut off (7).
 - Violinist in one go becoming heathen (5).
 - Sit down, like Humpty-dumpty (5).
 - Bird of prey? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,394



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